

Hafa Adai!

VOX POPULI: What are your wishes/hopes for this Lunar New Year? **PAGE 2**
Probable cause found to charge man with sexually abusing girl, 9. **PAGE 6**

\$1

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DUE TO LACK OF FUNDING

CCC office is temporarily closed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission's office

at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai was temporarily closed down starting yesterday due to the lack of funds. A notice of the temporary closure was posted at both the entrance and exit doors of the CCC office. See CCC on **Page 4**

» **Five CCC commissioners, 9 employees still around, not clear how they will be paid**

Torres' Feb. trial moved to June

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The previously scheduled Feb. 13 jury trial of former governor Ralph DLG Torres in the criminal case filed against him in the Superior Court has been vacated due to unforeseen circumstances.



Torres

According to an order issued by Superior Court judge pro tem Alberto Tolentino yesterday, he has granted the request made by the defense to continue Torres' trial to a later date. Tolentino also clarified that he isn't ruling on any of the

See **TORRES** on **Page 4**

Villagomez is special ass't for OMB, Pangelinan is acting DLNR secretary

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Virginia C. Villagomez, who used to head the Office of Management and Budget at the Office of the Governor, was



Villagomez



Pangelinan

In a separate memorandum last Tuesday, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios designated Fish and Wildlife director Manuel M. Pangelinan as the acting secretary for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. See **OMB** on **Page 4**

Charter to fly boonie dogs off-island



Cages containing boonie dogs and puppies are about to be shipped out from Guam to the United States via Lisa Meador Schoppa-Animal Travel Agent LLC, who charts flights specifically for pet travel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In an ongoing effort to reduce the number of stray dogs in the CNMI, the organization Boonie Flight Project from Guam, in collaboration with Boonie Babies Rescue Saipan, has

» **30 dogs will be headed to adopters in US, Canada**

secured a pet charter flight to relocate 30 dogs to adoptive families this Monday, Jan. 23. Lisa Meador Schoppa-Animal Travel Agent LLC charts airplanes specifically for pet travel, and is a sponsor of the Boonie Flight Project. See **DOGS** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



SUPPLEMENT
Saipan Tribune welcomes the Lunar New Year's Year of the Rabbit with a supplement.

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SUPPLEMENT
What's in store for your zodiac sign this year? Some will fare better than others, according to predictions.

PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE
Archaeologists in Norway have found a runestone that they claim is the world's oldest.

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Local

DOI's Cantor to meet with Palacios next week

In response to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' invitation and request to meet, Assistant Secretary Carmen G. Cantor of the U.S. Department of the Interior (International and Insular Affairs) has confirmed that she will be visiting the Commonwealth next week.

Cantor's letter confirming her forthcoming visit was personally delivered to Palacios by Harry Blanco, U.S. De-

partment of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs field representative.

In his Jan. 13, 2023, letter and request to meet with Cantor, Palacios stated that "...upon taking the oath of office and assuming my duties as the governor of



Palacios



Cantor

the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, we have discovered that our government finances are in considerable disarray. ...Consistent with the historic relationship between the government and people of the CNMI and the Department of

the Interior, I urgently request consultations to disclose the extent and scope of the challenges we face, and identify any measures of support and technical assistance your office and the Department of the Interior may be able to provide."

In her response letter to Palacios, Cantor also congratulated Palacios on his being sworn in as the 10th elected governor of the CNMI.

"There is no greater mandate under the CNMI Constitution and Commonwealth Covenant than that which the people of the CNMI have given you as their governor," said Cantor in her letter to the governor.

Cantor also encouraged Palacios to participate in the upcoming National Governors' Association Winter Meeting, which includes the Interagency Group on Insular Area Senior Plenary Session.

"These meetings provide important opportunities to net-

work with White House and ranking federal officials who possess valuable information and resources that may be helpful as you seek to address challenges in the CNMI during your new administration," she added.

Palacios stated during Wednesday's news briefing that he would like to discuss the possibility of repurposing Technical Assistance Program grants and other OIA grants or providing additional technical training and audit support. (PR)

VOX POPULI

What are your wishes/hopes for this Lunar New Year?

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE, LEIGH GASES, and CHRYSTAL MARINO**
REPORTS/CORRESPONDENT

"Wishing everyone a Happy Lunar New Year, and a year ahead full of joy, good health, good luck, and success. In this Year of the Rabbit, may we come together in the spirit of peace, perseverance, and prosperity."

—**Brianna Hunter, Kagman III**

"Hoping to see our Asian businesses continues to partner with our CNMI to be part of our economic growth."

—**Oscar M. Babauta, Chalan Kanoa**

"I wish for peace of mind, happiness and prosperity for everyone. We have tough times ahead for everyone in the Commonwealth given our financial situation, but I hope for wisdom and perseverance for our leaders and everyone in the community. We are a resilient people. We can get through anything together."

—**Christopher Concepcion, Capital Hill**

"I wish this year to be full of happiness and love! This is the year of black rabbits and the rabbits are supposed to be wise and clever. I hope everyone in Marianas overcome all

the challenges in life cleverly and wisely."

—**Lindsay Ahn, San Roque**

"I just hope that life would be peaceful and that everyone would get along with each other."

—**En Yang Pang, Garapan**

"I hope our islands will be better developed to welcome tourists from all over the world as a way to boost the economy."

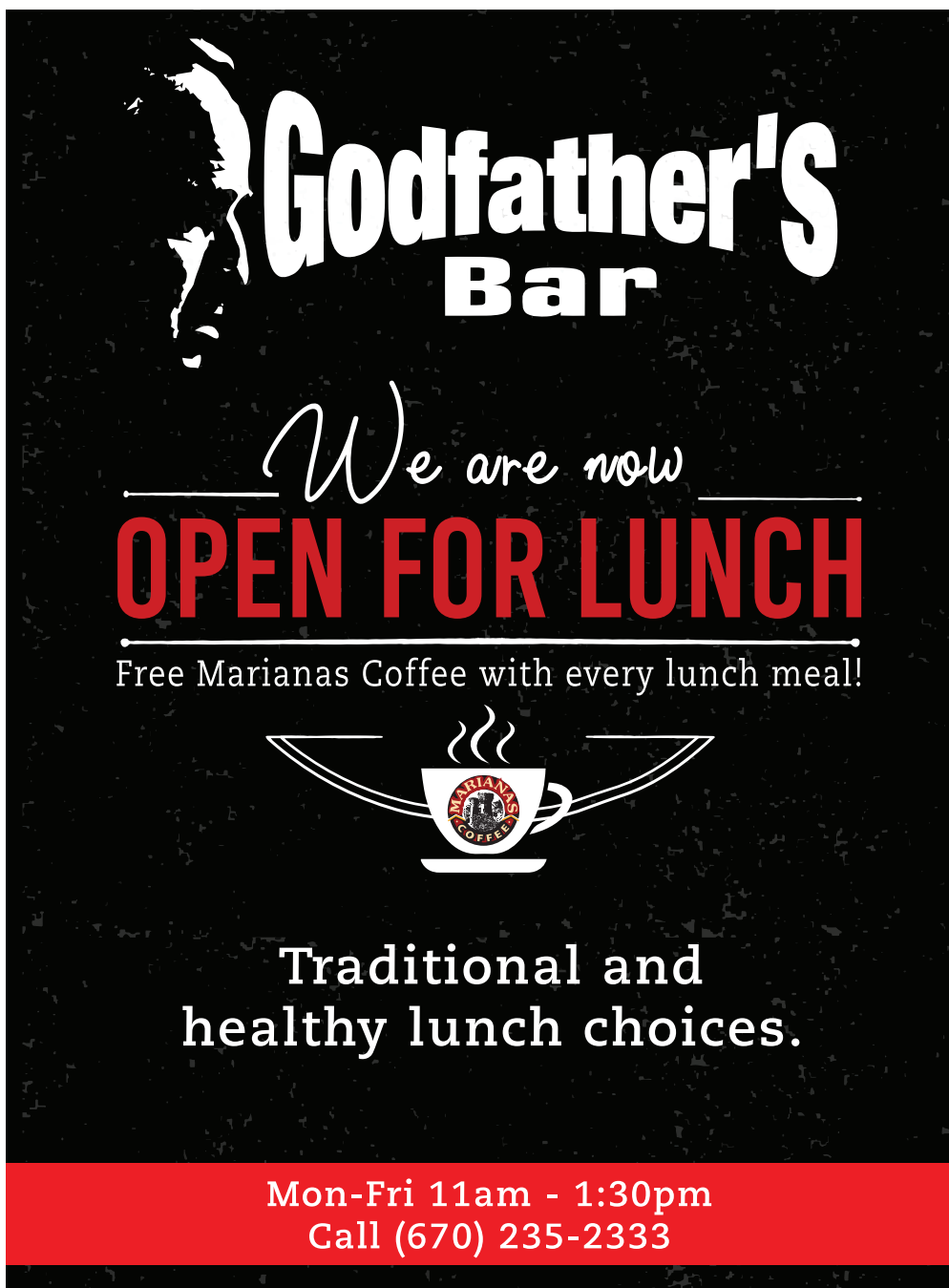
—**Sun Fei, Garapan**

"Wish for good health, happiness, and peace."

—**Feng Xiaohong, Finasisu**

"As a Bible-believing church missionary/pastor, frankly I hope many people on Saipan and other parts of the world will come to Jesus for salvation. We need to realize that the world is not getting better. We need to pray to Jesus to forgive and save us. The only answer to the plight we're facing is going to Jesus Christ in repentance. I hope many people will get saved spiritually by the only savior in this new year!"


—**Pastor Kok H. Pang, Gualo Rai**
See WISHES on Page 4



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ARC, Run Saipan to stage 5K run

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter is partnering with Run Saipan to host a 5K fun run on Feb. 11, starting at 6am. The course will be around the airport field and end at the Red Cross office.

All proceeds will go to support the Red Cross here in the CNMI. An early registration of \$20 includes a long-sleeve event shirt, (first 300 to register), refreshments and snacks.

"We are happy to be partnering with Run Saipan for our first ever 5K run. In addition, [Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. nurses] will be on site to provide blood pressure and sugar checks," said John Hirsh, executive director of the Red Cross. Medals will be given to the top adult, kids and stroller finishers.

Registration can be made at <https://racerooster.com/events/2023/71090/run-for-the-red-5k> Early registration ends on Jan. 21.

Early registration is \$20. The fee will go up to \$25 from Jan 22 to Feb 5 and \$30 from

Feb. 6 to Race Day.

For more information contact the Red Cross office at 234-3459 or Ed Dela Cruz Jr. at 287-0891.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood;

teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org/nmi. (PR)

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Palacios, Apatang meet with Kilili

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang met with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) yesterday to discuss a range of issues that include the financial challenges the Commonwealth is facing.

"We talked about a number of items, and I was able to brief the congressman on what we have discovered and continue to learn as we look deeper into the state of the CNMI government's finances," Palacios said.

"It was an open and candid conversation focused on how we can move the Commonwealth past the unprecedented challenges it is facing," Palacios added. "We will continue to ensure that our channels of communication remain open through this administration."

Their meeting also included a dis-

cussion on how federally-sourced resources can be strategically deployed or maximized to help the CNMI. Funding opportunities like the Technical Assistance Program of the Department of the Interior and other federal grant programs were also discussed. Additional issues, including ways that the tourism industry can be bolstered, were also considered.

To strengthen federal support, Sablan recommended that Palacios attend the upcoming U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources committee hearing called by U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin. The annual hearing, called the State of the U.S. Territories, gives opportunities to governors from the five territories to provide highlights and discuss priorities items for the upcoming year.

The committee hearing is coordi-

nated to occur around the National Governors' Association winter meeting, which also includes the Inter-agency Group on Insular Area Senior Plenary Session.

U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary Carmen Cantor had also encouraged Palacios to participate in the IGIA meeting in a recent letter.

"These meetings provide important opportunities to network with [the] White House and ranking federal officials who possess valuable information and resources that may be helpful as you seek to address challenges in the CNMI during your new administration," Cantor had said.

"I look forward to continuing and strengthening this administration's partnership with Congressman Sablan's office," Palacios said. (PR)



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, leftmost, and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, center, meet with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) to discuss a range of issues that include the financial challenges the Commonwealth is facing.

DOGS

From Page 1

Project, which makes the flights possible for dogs to reach their adoptive families safely in the United States.

For this Monday's flight, the 30 dogs will be flown to either Washington, Texas, Oregon, Florida, Virginia, Colorado, or Canada, with more families elsewhere inquiring or willing to adopt.

Lauren Cabrera, co-founder of the Boonie Flight Project who now resides on Saipan, is working closely

with the Boonie Babies to rehome dogs stateside because "there just are not enough homes for them all here."

Boonie Flight Project is a dog rescue organization founded in Guam by Cabrera and Kelsey Graupner, which started in April 2021 and has since then shipped over 450 stray dogs to 26 different states.

Stray dogs in the CNMI and Guam are commonly referred to as "boonie" dogs, in reference to the word "boondocks." Most are said to be the offspring of military dogs that were left on the islands after World War II.

Cabrera clarified that the Boonie

Flight Project is not a licensed pet shipper. "We are just a non-profit dog rescue that sends dogs from the streets and shelter of Guam to adopters and rescues we find stateside."

However, with Cabrera now living on Saipan, she is working closely with Boonie Babies to fly dogs to be housed elsewhere—with their large social media following, they have many people asking how to adopt them out.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

CCC

From Page 1

CCC executive director Andrew Yeom has yet to reply to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry about the office's temporary shutdown.

A CCC staff, however, disclosed yesterday that the office is closed, but the five commissioners are still around and it's not clear yet how the commissioners will be paid.

The commission still has nine remaining employees after information technology manager Ian Morrell resigned last Nov. 21. Morrell left the CNMI for personal matters, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

The staff, who requested not be identified, said they were told by the governor's office that there's no money to sustain the CCC's operations.

"We are at zero funding, therefore no money for wages, operations, or for the commissioners' compensation," the employee said.

The staff said employees' contracts are held up at the Office of Manage-

ment and Budget because there's no funds.

"Our contracts actually expired on Dec. 31, 2022, but we continued to report to work [while] awaiting the new administration's assistance and guidance," the employee said.

The staff said they did request for American Rescue Plan Act funding from the previous Torres administration, but they did not get even a penny of ARPA money.

The employee said that when Gov. Arnold I. Palacios came in, they once again requested for funding assistance from him, and that's when they found out that ARPA is actually in deficit.

The CCC employees' last paycheck was on Jan. 13, 2023.

The staff said they, however, are still owed wages from Jan. 1 to 18, 2023.

"Our payroll might be late because funds have to be identified first," the staff said.

The CCC has been facing a serious budget crisis after Saipan's lone casino, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, was temporarily

closed since March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CCC's entire source of revenue for its operations comes from IPI's annual casino regulatory fee of \$3,150,000. IPI, however, has failed to pay that fee since 2020. The government gives CCC only a \$1 budget.

In May 2021, the CCC had 39 employees. Many employees were then terminated due to budget constraint and others resigned.

The arbitration process between CCC and IPI started last November.

Last Aug. 24, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted IPI's request for a preliminary injunction against IPI to prohibit the CCC from revoking IPI's exclusive casino license.

Manglona issued the order to allow IPI to pursue its right to arbitration. She ordered CCC to participate in the arbitration process.

Arbitration is a procedure wherein two parties agree on one or more arbitrators to make a decision in their dispute in order to resolve a disagreement outside of court proceedings.

phoon Yutu in October 2018.

Earlier, Palacios designated Department of Public Safety police director Aniceto T. Ogomoro as acting DPS commissioner, Emergency Management Operations director Gerald J. Deleon Guerrero as acting special assistant for the CNMI Homeland Security & Management, former representative Leila F. Staffler as acting Department of Labor secretary, and Paul Tenorio as executive director of the Criminal Justice Planning Agency.

CNMI's financial situation.

Villagomez was head of the transition team at the Department of Finance.

With respect to Pangelinan, his designation as acting DLNR secretary took effect last Tuesday until further notice.

Former DLNR secretary Anthony T. Benavente was recently sued by the Office of the Attorney General for allegedly receiving over \$30,000 in illegal premium pay, overtime payments, or extra payments, related to services he rendered after Super Ty-

TORRES

From Page 1

arguments made by the parties.

"The court has read both defendant's and the Commonwealth's submissions. However, due to unforeseen circumstances unrelated to this matter, the court is unable to proceed with the current Feb. 13 trial date. Therefore the court shall grant defendant's motion pursuant to its authority to control its own calendar, and does so without substantively ruling on the issues mentioned in the party's briefs. For the following reason, defendant's motion for continuance of trial is granted," said Tolentino.

He did not specify these "unforeseen circumstances."

Due to the continuance, the Feb. 13 jury trial date previously set by the court has been vacated and Torres' trial is now set for June 5, at 9am.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Torres' lawyer, Victorino Torres, previously asked the court to push the trial further to sometime in August to accommodate his schedule.

WISHES

From Page 2

"In the new year, I hope to work harder to help more people and make every day count."

—Afra Gao, Publiko Drive, Garapan

"[We usually] celebrate with my family together and then we go to eat together. But then my family are all in China, so usually we only celebrate with our friends, like our Chinese friends. We'll come together, and everyone will bring some food, and then we'll celebrate—just look at the moon and watch fireworks as everyone celebrates the new year."

—Annie Ren, Chalan Kanoa

"I'm a senior in high school, so this will be my last year, so I really look forward to spending time with all of my friends because [Lunar] New Year is one of the only times we gather around. So I think it's a great chance to interact with, like, aunts and uncles, and just have fun, and like grow one more year. This upcoming year, I'm hoping to get a college admission, and I just hope that my plans go "safe," like flying to America, experiencing a new place, new school year, and just hope that

"My client has waived his right to a speedy trial. There is no reason to fast-track these proceedings," said Victorino Torres, who is the governor's brother.

However, the Office of the Attorney General, which is prosecuting the former governor, opposed another continuance, saying the jury trial has already been pushed back several times now.

In an eight-page motion opposing the defense's request for another continuance, OAG chief solicitor Robert Glass Jr. essentially said that Torres has four lawyers to represent him and the conflict of schedule of one is not enough reason for a continuance.

Glass argued that the defendant provides no reason why one of his other three lawyers cannot be present or represent him at the February trial.

Back in April 2022, the OAG filed a criminal case against Torres, alleging 12 counts of misconduct in public office and one count of theft relating to the issuance of airline tickets for business class, first class, or other premium class travel for himself and/or Diann T. Torres, his wife.

the year goes smoothly."

—Angel Ren, Chalan Kanoa

"My hopes for the Lunar New Year is for happiness and peace. I hope for everyone to be happy. I hope that it will also be a fresh start to people. May wealth flow in their door."

—Angel Li, Susupe

"For adults, we are happy, but it's not the same with how kids are happy for the Chinese New Year. Because you have a lot of things to do, and buy, you know, Chinese New Year, you need to make sure everything in the house is clean...for luck and you have to spend money. ...Yeah, Chinese New Year is a happy time. Maybe not like the same type of happy for the kids—they are happy with new clothes from their parents, aunts, uncles. It's just that for the adults, it's a different feeling."

—Jenny Bennett, Chalan Kanoa

"We will buy some fireworks and dumplings, and then at night all the family will stay together, eat, and enjoy some TV shows, Chinese TV show. And so we'll do that overnight, we will stay up 'til past 12 o'clock, and celebrate that. ...We hope for the best of wishes and good luck for the new year."

—Shangming Zuo, of Pacific Hafa Adai, Chalan Lau Lau

OMB

From Page 1

Resources.

In a memorandum yesterday, the governor said that Villagomez's appointment as special assistant for OMB took effect last Wednesday.

At that time, Villagomez was present at a news briefing in the Office of the Governor's conference room during which Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang talked about the

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Probable cause found to charge man with sexual abuse of girl, 9

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has found probable cause to try a man on one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, among other charges, after he was accused of fondling a 9-year-old girl.

Superior Court Associate

Judge Wesley Bogdan found probable cause to try Kevin I. Esteves on the charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Esteves, who was remanded back to Department of Corrections custody, was ordered to return to court on

Jan. 30, for his arraignment. According to court documents, Esteves' bail is currently set at \$15,000.

The complaint stated that the 9-year-old girl told her mother



Bogdan

that she was awakened by the feeling of someone touching her on the evening of Dec. 31. When she opened her eyes, the victim said she saw Esteves lying beside her and fondling her privates. She said when Esteves no-

ticed that she had opened her eyes, he walked away and said "Oh, sorry."

The victim said she wanted to tell a trusted family member via social media but there was no internet at that moment. She was able to tell her mother about the incident when Esteves had already left.

SCC names award nominees for its 2022 BPOY Gala

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has five nominees this year for its Business Person of Year award, among other awards that will be presented at the 2022 "Bowties & Diamonds" Business Person of the Year annual fundraiser gala on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023 at the Hibiscus Hall, Crowne Plaza.

The Business Person of Year nominees are Joseph Guerrero

(of Naked Fish Bar & Grill), Dr. Nelson Krum (of Paradise Dental Spa), John J. Santos (of Triple J Saipan, Inc.), Emma Perez (of 500 Sails), and Nicole Babauta (of Docomo Pacific).

The nominees are all active members of the Chamber, gracious in their support of the community, and business leaders advocating for our economy and our enterprises.

In addition, the SCC also has the following nominees for these awards:

2022 Non-Profit of the Year

1. Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations, or MANGO
2. Pickleball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands
3. Kagman Isla Community Health Center

2022 Start-Up of the Year

1. BistroBoyz670
2. Bonitu Basula
3. Next Level Thrift & Consignment Shop

2022 Small Business of the Year

1. The Angry Penne
2. Paradise Dental Spa
3. 360 Enterprises, Inc. dba 360 Revolving Restaurant

2022 Chamber Member of the Year

1. Northern Marianas College
2. Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations, or MANGO
3. Docomo Pacific

The winners of the Gala Awards will be voted on by the Saipan Chamber of Com-

merce membership official representatives.

The BPOY gala serves as the SCC's largest annual fundraiser for Chamber programming. Activities such as the Scholarship program, online seminars, workforce development training, small business support, and more to benefit its membership and local community. In addition, the event honors past Business Person of the Year recipients, current nominees, and the SCC board of directors. Additionally, the event celebrates the installation of the 2023 board of directors.

For more information, email contactus@saipan-chamber.org or call 670-234-7150. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Deadline to submit MCS AlumKnight nominations

Mount Carmel School's AlumKnight Association reminds all community members that the deadline to submit nominations for the 2022 AlumKnight of the Year, Legacy Teacher of the Year, Millennial Falcon of the Year, Parent of the Year, and AlumKnight Class of the Year are due today, Friday, Jan. 20, 2023. Nomination submissions can be submitted to the school's Business Office or emailed to businessmanager@mcsk-nights.com. Guidelines for submissions can be found at <https://www.mountcarmelsaipan.com/a-night-with-the-knights>. (PR)

www.mountcarmelsaipan.com/a-night-with-the-knights. (PR)

4.7-magnitude quake in Maug region

At 4:18pm on Jan. 15 2023, a report of a 4.7-magnitude earthquake occurred at 19.385°N 145.335°E in the Maug Island region of the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. (PR)



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Division
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhc.gov • Website: <http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com>

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) NMHC IFB 2023-001

(This ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: February 21, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Route 205 and 206 Road and Drainage Improvement Project, Tinian

Project Package will be available on January 20, 2023, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One-Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

The provisions on the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office in Tinian located at the NMC Campus in Tinian on January 31, 2023, 10:00 a.m. In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhc.gov during business hours, 7:30am - 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCEDES "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-23-011

LOWER MIHA SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Lower Miha Sewer Line Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of but not limited to the installation of gravity sewer main, new sewer manholes, new service laterals, connection to existing service laterals, and the abandonment of existing sewerline, removal and disposal of existing sewer manholes.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on January 24, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-23-011, Lower Miha Sewer Line Replacement" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 7, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 27, 2023** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Acting Chief Engineer for Water/Wastewater via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Dennis Formalejo, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Toyota Dream Car Art Contest invites children from all corners of the globe to share ideas about the future of mobility by drawing their dream cars.

Create your "Dream Car"

HAND DRAWN ARTWORK

- Use any standard drawing medium (coloring pencils, crayons, paints or markers).
- Paper Size: 11" (h) x 17" (w).
- The color, material, and shape of paper can be chosen freely.
- Artwork with a thickness of over 5mm will be disqualified.
- Collage or cutout pictures will be allowed for plain drawings, excluding ones making other artworks dirty or requiring special care in handling.

COMPUTER GRAPHICS ARTWORK

- File size must be between 1MB and 5MB with around 300dpi per submission
- File format can be in JPG or PNG. No PDFs.
- In case of using drawing applications it is prohibited to use processing items such as illustration, stamps, templates, etc.

INELIGIBLE PIECES

- Collaborative artwork drawing by multiple individuals will also not be accepted.
- From a copyright perspective, simulant artworks/ trademarked characters will also not be accepted.

ENTRY PERIOD

October 5, 2022

CONTEST THEME

Your Dream Car

DEADLINE

January 31, 2023

AGE CATEGORIES

Under 8 years old
8 - 11 years old
12 - 15 olds



Atkins Kroll (Saipan), Inc.
#1 Chalan Msr Guerrero San Jose
Saipan, MP 96950
Showroom Hours
Monday - Saturday: 8am to 5pm

HERE FOR SAIPAN. HERE FOR LIFE.



Call (670) 234-5911



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the largest class of new citizens in 15 years

Naturalization ceremonies are inherently patriotic. People enter the courtroom, convention center or stadium as non-citizens and leave with a certificate of naturalization declaring them citizens of the United States of America. Many bring their entire families to share with them the honor of becoming American.

In the 2022 fiscal year, more than 970,000 green card holders became U.S. citizens, the highest number recorded since 2008. During a time when “immigrant” is often shorthand for “undocumented migrant,” it is important to remember and celebrate the people who have gone through the lengthy process legally.

After at least five years of permanent and lawful residence in the United States, an immigrant is eligible to apply for citizenship. Even though extensive background checks are required for applying for residency in the first place, additional examinations are required for naturalization. As are two tests, one on English proficiency and one on civics.

Not every legal resident does this. The citizenship process is invasive and expensive, with more than \$700 in fees, not to mention the cost, usually in the thousands, of hiring lawyer to navigate the complexity of the U.S. immigration system. Having a green card allows most people to live just fine—but taking the extra step to be a full citizen grants them important benefits: protection from deportation, a U.S. passport and the right to vote.

The naturalized citizen voting block is only growing. Pew estimates that 38% of eligible residents became citizens in 1995, and that number doubled to two-thirds in 2019. For many residents, anti-immigrant rhetoric, as well as the uncertainty of immigration policy across presidential administrations, motivated them to secure U.S. citizenship.

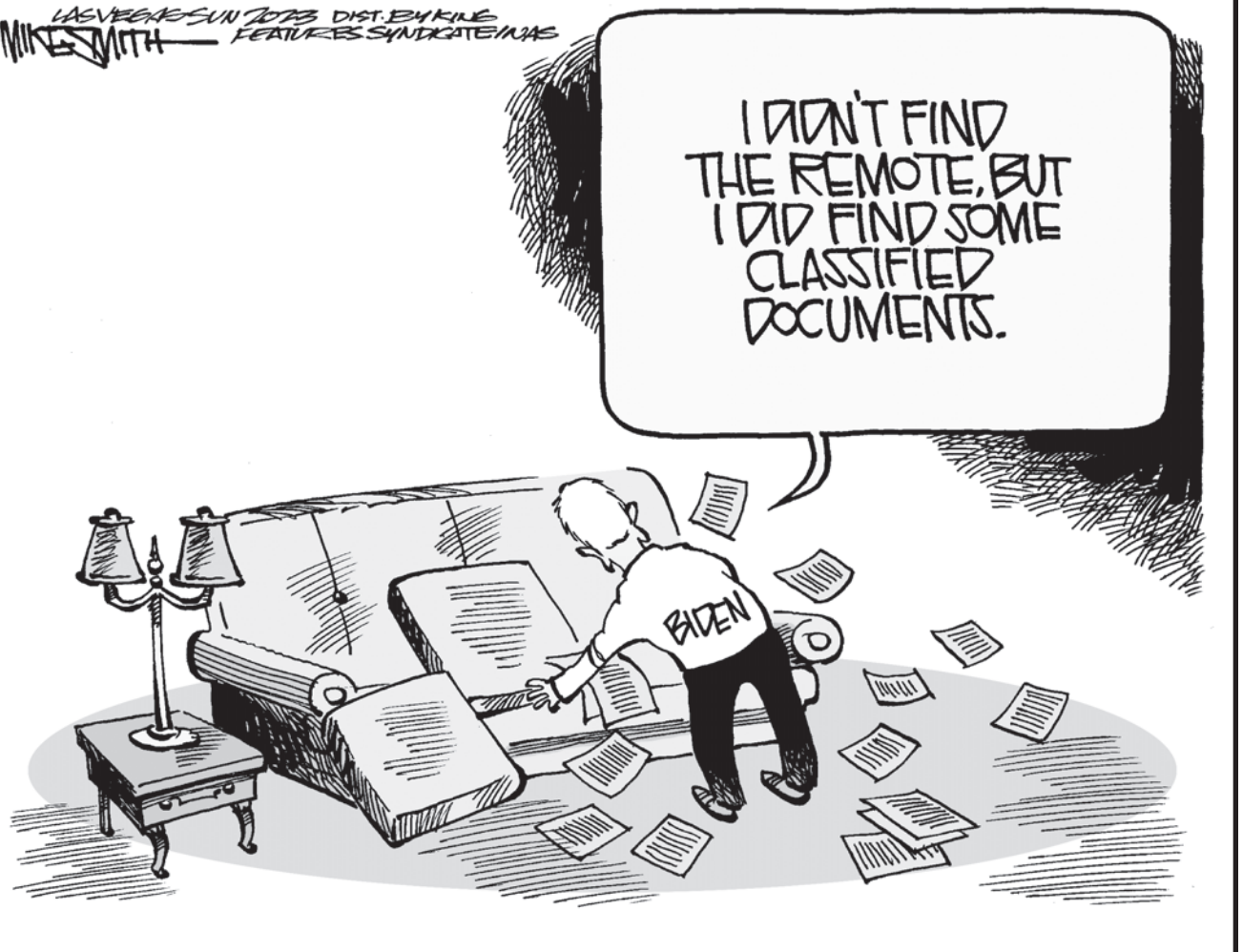
There are 9 million legal residents in the U.S. who are eligible to become citizens, but most simply aren't applying. Some cite deterrents such as the number of applications lingering in bureaucratic limbo; at least 670,000 applications remain pending according to recent State Department numbers.

On average, the process of becoming a citizen can take a year or two. Intense study, as well as great expense and hard work, culminates in a naturalization ceremony.

New citizens turn in their previous paperwork, recite an oath pledging their allegiance to the United States and receive a certificate of naturalization worth its weight in gold and generations of familial sacrifice. Sometimes people are handed small flags by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Many new citizens shed tears of joy. There's nothing more beautiful than watching a country embrace a person—and nothing more patriotic than the feeling in that person's chest.

Most immigrants want to work legally; they want to raise their families here and contribute to the civic life of the United States. To everyone who went through the process this year, and for everyone about to go through it, we offer a grateful “welcome.”

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FEATURES SYNDICATE/MS
MIKE SMITH

Is science in need of a language update?

Our institutions of higher education are not exactly stepping up during this moment of generational change. At a minimum these institutions are not keeping up and, at worst, they are failing us altogether.

Recently, my daughter, who is on the cusp of leaving our nest, and I attended an admission event for prospective students at a state university, specializing in biological sciences. After a tour of campus, I stepped into the women's restroom in the student center. On the sink in the restroom was a box of free menstrual products. The sign on the box read “You may have found this box in a men's restroom. This is because there are individuals who use this restroom who need these products.”

My issue with the above scenario is not about the transgender individuals who use the restroom. Of course everyone has the right to use a public restroom. Let me be clear, people who identify as transgender deserve our respect and kindness, like any other individual. They are people with rights, and I am not suggesting that any be taken away from them.

As someone who earned a bachelor's degree in science and who studied biology in order to matriculate, I will tell you from a biological perspective, if a person needs a menstrual product, that person is not genetically male. Admittedly it has been a while, but I learned that the X and Y chromosomes, also known as the sex chromosomes, determine the biological sex of an individual. Females are born with XX and males are born with XY chromosomes. And as far as I know, this has not changed regardless of how our language has evolved.

This whole experience left me in a quandary. Is academia being forced to ignore biology to satisfy the culture of their students? How is the world of science and academia addressing gender identity? Has the study of biology developed to address the biological roots of gender identity? These questions were swimming in my mind all the while as I was trying to accept and honor that my child's generation has different ideas and values than I do when it comes to gender.

But it's not just about bathrooms or menstrual products. It is also the need to tiptoe around pronouns and the word-policing, feeling like any one of us may be canceled at any time because of an honest slip-up.

The American public also holds a complex set of views around the issues of gender identity. Pew Research Center completed a survey last May of more than 10,000 adults. Among respondents, 60% said a person's gender is determined at birth, which is up from 56% in 2021 and 54% in 2017. Roughly 8 out

By LYNN SCHMIDT

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Lynn Schmidt is a columnist and Editorial Board member of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.



of 10 U.S. adults say there is at least some discrimination against transgender people in our society, and a majority favors laws that would protect transgender individuals from discrimination in jobs, housing and public spaces.

Then there is the issue of cancel culture. A New York Times/Siena poll showed that 84% of Americans say being afraid to exercise freedom of speech is a serious problem. Over half, 55%, of Americans say that “they have held their tongue, that is, not spoken freely over the last year because they were concerned about retaliation or harsh criticism,” The Times reported.

In his book “A Time to Build,” Yuval Levin defines an institution as the frameworks and structures of what we do together. Institutions provide a structure, are moved by purpose, defined by an ideal, and are capable of certain functions. Levin writes: “What does stand out about our time, though, is not the strength of the pressures we are under but the weakness of our institutions—from the family on up through the national government, with much in between. That weakness leaves us less able to hold together against the pressures we do face.”

Now more than ever, as Americans grapple with these pressures, whether it is the changing attitudes on gender issues or dealing with the inability to speak freely, we need strong institutions to help guide and lead us. Unfortunately, across the board, Americans' confidence in our institutions is at a new low, and institutions don't appear to be adding clarity where people need it.

I hope that administrators in higher education begin to recognize the importance of their roles as an institution in our society and start to act accordingly, thinking about what their purpose, ideals and functions are. Is it educating and guiding our students with knowledge and skills to prepare them for careers or is it furthering cultural ideals?

My daughter will soon walk past pillars on her way into campus academic buildings. May they be as strong institutionally as they are architecturally. And may they teach her biology.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Good sports

During a “timeout” with mere seconds left in an early round game of the Virginia State High School Lacrosse Tournament my senior year, we were up by one goal and our coach called on me for a one-on-one matchup with the opposing team’s senior stud (at least in his mind) attackman (I believe he was their leading scorer as well, although some details of those days escape me); I was a long-stick defenseman. “Jimbo! You take, JP,” our coach said. We knew him by name, not because he was that good—though he might say otherwise—but because our schools were in-state rivals; we’d competed multiple times (maybe twice in a season sometimes) throughout our high school years and, coincidentally, our respective coaches were longtime friends dating back to their college years.

“DON’T LET HIM TOUCH THE BALL!” my coach commanded in no uncertain terms. I had one job. Then in a blur, the ball was inbounded, JP slipped away from me and, in one fluid motion, caught the ball, turned, and fired a shot on goal. He missed by an inch or less. Phew!

The game ended on that shot, my team advanced (only to lose in the semifinal round) and my high school playing days were over. I vaguely recall offering a few consoling words and sharing niceties with a handshake on the field that day, but I more clearly remember a feeling of mutual respect for each other and for the game itself. In that moment, he was devastated and I was...well...relieved, but both of us were good sports. I credit our coaches for that bit of sportsmanship and maturity despite the hubris in our youth.

That game (from a little over 30 years ago now) would mark the beginning of an enduring friendship with JP, who remains one my most trusted friends to this very day (albeit from a half-a-world distance away). In the fall of that same year, we matriculated into the same college, lived in the same dorm, and pledged the same fraternity. Generally we dabbled in much of the same idiocy—you wouldn’t believe me if I told even half of it—for the entirety of our college years (outside of classes and a fairly rigorous lacrosse schedule, of course). At the end of our senior year in college, he and I would play our last game together with a handful of our closest friends (then teammates) at our first appearance in the NCAA Division III Lacrosse Tournament with our team hav-

ing been Ranked #8 in the nation that year (the lowest seed to make the tournament in those days). We lost in the first round and our four years of playing college ball ended—most of us (many of who had played together all four years) said our goodbyes on the bus that day and have not seen or spoken with each other since.

■ ■ ■

Flash forward to present day—30-some years older and none the wiser, although exponentially sentimental and soft (pun intended)—I’m an old, “has-been” athlete who has (for lack of a nicer term) “let himself go,” relatively speaking. For example, my once six-minute mile-run is (at best) a grueling 14-plus-minute walk these days—more than double—and let’s just say a few other bodily numbers/percentages have more than doubled over the years, including something that rhymes with hat, cat, and bat. Thank goodness for chubby-chasers and their appreciation for a man they can grab a hold of...big boys need love too.

Speaking of love, there is hardly anything that I love more in this world than watching my children grow; nothing like watching grass grow mind you, never a dull moment. It’s on the occasion these days after my kids’ sports competitions that I most often reminisce and wander down this nostalgic path of days-gone-by. I can’t help but feel a tremendous sense of gratitude for the opportunity to watch them compete no matter the sport and with little regard for whether they win, lose, or draw. Don’t get me wrong. I prefer to see them win, but in the long run they (and we as a community) all win when our kids are able to engage in meaningful opportunities of athletic competition, regardless of the sport and/or scores. You see, even in loss there is something to be gained from healthy competition—at best maybe lifelong friendships and at worst perhaps a lesson in humility, a rare quality these days.

The highs and lows of emotion in youth sports were on full display over the weekend during the CNMI’s Middle School Girls Volleyball Tournament hosted and organized by the Public School System in collaboration with NMI’s Volleyball Association. I dare say the ups and downs were especially prevalent because it was competition among middle school girls, nearly 150 of them I’d guess in that age group. As a more-than-casual parent observer, I can tell you that the see-

MY GLASS CUP

By **JIM RAYPHAND**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jim Rayphand is a former executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. and recently ventured into a startup fishing business.

saw of nervous energy bobbing up and down between happy and sad or excitement and anger was palpable—tears of joy and sadness were on tap for the day. On one play they’d be jumping for joy and the very next dejected beyond recognition. Meanwhile, I looked on like some sort of wacko coddling them (in my mind) and wishing I could give them a hug one minute and the next wishing I could shake the funk out of them (especially my own daughter and nieces). Such is the nature of competitive team sports and, if you ask me, the stuff (both the bitter and sweet emotions) that makes life worth living. You can’t fully appreciate a win if you’ve never known defeat and that’s not just in sports, though I don’t know of better way for our kids to learn it.

It’s easy to talk about sports in the context of wins and losses or the general benefits of exercise and physical activity or even the rivalries between teams (local or otherwise), but that’s the fodder of a small picture view, a few trees in the forest if you will. In the bigger picture, with a little bit of luck and a whole lot of respect for your sport and for the people engaged in it with you (including yourself, your teammates, opponents, coaches, refs and everyone in the cheering sections), what you get are the most solid grounds on which to lay your own footings and the greatest building blocks for the most genuine, lifelong relationships with people in every facet of your life going forward. That’s not to say you will succeed in every relationship—many of us know all too well the agony of defeat—but it’s where we learn to take it in and move forward.

At the final whistle, the most fortunate among us will be standing along the sidelines with our most trusted friends, taking our turns and cheering each other on in this (one and only) life, the greatest game ever known.

**Year of the Rabbit/
Remember Bugs Bunny?****LITERARY NOOK**
By **JOEY CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



Lots of folks think of a rabbit chewing a carrot hippity hoppity hop hopping all over the place here’s old and new rabbit news, let us share it remembering the smile on Bugs Bunny’s face

Elmer Fudd tried and tried to get, “that WABBIT” despite years of cartoons Wabbit knew how to run Elmer Fudd just always seemed unable to nab it all those cartoons of the chase were lots of fun

In China and throughout Asia it is a rabbit’s habit to represent Peace, Diplomacy, and Good Luck people born in Rabbit years are supposed to be Calm every twelve years those bunnies start hopping along

during Spring Festival this Year of the Water Rabbit please be at Peace, if Luck comes your way grab it!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**The heist**

The truth about our former governor is coming to light even before the state and federal courts can finish with him. The sad part is that we the people are the ones who will be stuck with the tab. How could HSEM even be operating with a \$123-million deficit? How can the BOOST program and all these people and agencies have abused and misused our money? Former representative Tina Sablan was right to call what Ralph has done as being a “heist” that will surely not go unpunished.

I know Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and anyone in his situation would first respond with cutting costs, which is inevitable. However, we can’t let the despair of the moment distract us from the prize and what we really need most now, which is new revenue sources, as our destitute situation demands that we turn adversity into prosperity—an opportunity for greatness. Gov. Palacios now has the difficult task of balancing cost-cutting and creating new revenues, which can be done but he will need the help of the

Legislature to turn things around and this is no time for anyone in the Legislature to start talking and playing politics. Ralph has truly left the CNMI in a deep hole and there is no lifeline being thrown, which is why the governor is rightfully reaching out to the Department of the Interior for help.

Just think, if Ralph had been stopped with the impeachment, he wouldn’t have been able to squander the hundreds of millions he spent, especially in his last months in office.

Maybe just one day the people of the CNMI will truly start giving my admonitions the weight they deserve because I am truly sick and tired of knowing and saying, “I told you so!” It is time to stop believing my critics and start paying more attention to the truth, as there is no reason for me to lie to people.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman III, Saipan

Thanks to Chris Nelson’s documentaries

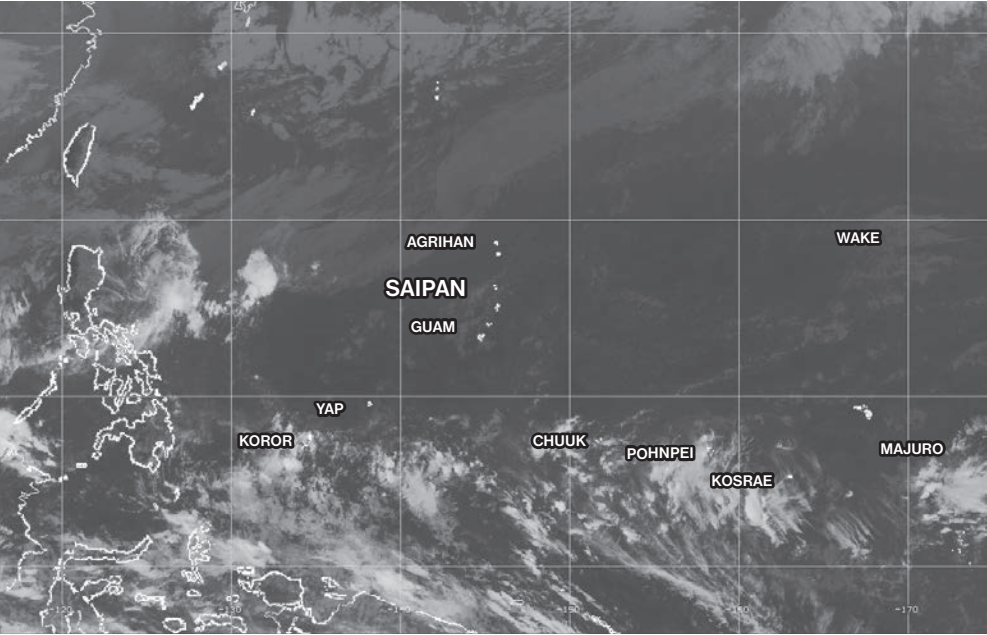
Big kudos and thanks to Chris Nelson for producing and presenting two exceptional documentaries at the American Memorial Park last Wednesday night: *Buen Camino*—a 37-day hike on the historical Camino de Santiago in Spain, and *Mountain 12*—the reunion and support for an extraordinary friend and individual, Saipan’s Russ Quinn. Both portrayed and exposed valuable lessons of friendships and exemplary examples of how to live and fight for a great life. The top life regrets, as documented in a

well-known book, are not having the courage to live a life true to yourself rather than a life others expect of you, not expressing your feelings, not staying in touch with friends, and not letting yourself be happier. Russ and others in the documentaries will not likely have those. Will you?

Paul Plunkett
DanDan, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	75°	86°	75°	88°	75°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:10 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar and infrared satellite shows an area of low clouds with patchy light showers moving through the Marianas Waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 5 to 7 feet, composed of 4 to 6 foot east-northeast swell plus wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	85° / 76°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	83° / 75°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Isolated Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:08 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:53 AM	4:17 PM	-
Saturday	6:00 AM	5:26 PM	-
Sunday	7:02 AM	6:35 PM	-
Monday	7:59 AM	7:42 PM	-
Tuesday	8:49 AM	8:44 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	75° / 63°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	43° / 21°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	73° / 63°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	79° / 64°	
London	Showers	55° / 34°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 50°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°	
Melbourne	Rain	73° / 52°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	81° / 72°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	50° / 34°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	55° / 45°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	43° / 36°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	54° / 30°	
Rome	Sunny	57° / 41°	
Salem	Cloudy	52° / 39°	
San Francisco	Sunny	60° / 45°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	39° / 19°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	54° / 39°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	48° / 33°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:06 AM	Low Tide	-0.70	
7:38 AM	High Tide	1.74	
12:31 PM	Low Tide	1.22	
5:19 PM	High Tide	1.82	

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 17, 2023

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:30AM	7:25AM	Daily	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA189	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
OZ624/701	3:50PM	10:35AM+1	3,6 via Incheon	UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
				OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:20PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:55AM	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ623	9:00AM	2:20PM	3, 6
TW9308	3:30AM	7:10AM	2, 4	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
OZ624	3:50PM	7:40PM	3, 6	TW307	8:45PM	2:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	TW9307	9:00PM	2:30AM+1	1, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)	7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.		10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)	4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.		9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.		2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.		12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.		6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/				Sat/Sun
			Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

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Happy

**LUNAR
NEW YEAR**

2023



A SAIPAN TRIBUNE SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

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What is the Lunar New Year and how is it celebrated?

By TRIA WEN
READER'S DIGEST

Jan. 22, 2023 will usher in the Lunar New Year, and people will celebrate around the world. Though this holiday is often called Chinese New Year in the United States, festivities marking the new year according to China's lunar calendar (technically, a lunisolar calendar) are not limited to China. Countries like Japan, South Korea and Vietnam use the same calendar to mark important holidays, including the new year.

In America, Lunar New Year celebrations are most visible in Chinatowns across the country. You'll often see parades, fireworks, lion-dancing and an array of Chinese New Year food. There's also an emphasis on the year's Chinese zodiac sign, which is paired with one of the five Chinese zodiac elements, and 2023 is the Year of the Water Rabbit. Since there are 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac, each animal repeats every 12 years, and people born in 1939, 1951, 1963 and so on are Rabbits. If you were born in the Year of the Rabbit, though, you'll want

to take some extra precautions for 2023. When it's your zodiac year, there's a superstition that misfortune can visit. Wearing jade and the color red can attract good luck instead of bad.

Regardless of your zodiac year, Lunar New Year is a time to celebrate, as well as an opportunity to start fresh. Read on to learn more about Lunar New Year and how to celebrate it with traditions that have been passed down over thousands of years.

What is Lunar New Year?

"Lunar New Year celebrates

the first days of spring on the lunar calendar," says Jenny Leung, executive director of the Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco. "It has become the symbol of bidding farewell to the old year and starting fresh the new year, and [it's a time] of family reunion."

The calendar we follow in the United States was started in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII and first adopted by Catholic countries. Gradually, the majority of countries also got on Gregorian time, but some countries still follow other calendars, particularly for holidays. That's the case with

the Lunar New Year.

Instead of tracking the Earth's orbit around the sun, which is slightly over 365 days, the lunar calendar tracks the cycles of the moon. One lunar year is 12 full cycles of the moon, approximately 354 days. The Hijri calendar, also known as the Islamic calendar, abides by this lunation, but the Chinese lunar calendar (as well as Hindu, Jewish and other calendars) follows a lunisolar cycle, which adjusts with an extra month when it drifts too far from the solar calendar. That's why Lunar New Year falls on a different day of our Gregorian calendar each year, but within the same approximate time frame. Whatever day it falls on, it's a day to be with loved ones, marking new beginnings and enjoying delicious meals together.

How is it celebrated?

Generally, Lunar New Year celebrations can span around 15 days (from new moon to full moon), but the duration and ways of celebrating vary between cultures, religions, and geographical regions. "Lunar New Year is celebrated around the world," Leung explains. "Particularly in Asia, [in countries] such as China, Vietnam, and Korea."

In Vietnam, it's called Tet Nguyen Dan, or Tet for short. Families eat a sticky rice dish together and display tall bamboo trees outside their homes. In South Korea, it's called Seollal, and traditionally a meal is prepared to honor ancestors first, and then younger family members pay respects to the older generation by bowing, after which the elders give them words of wisdom and pocket money.

"Many places in the U.S. with Asian populations also celebrate the holiday," says Leung. "In San Francisco's Chinatown, we have one of the largest celebrations outside of Asia." It's also the oldest celebration of Lunar New Year in America, dating back to the 1860s. Chinese immigrants in California after the Gold Rush had become targets of discrimination and violence. Wanting to share their culture as a way to build connection, they chose the American format of a parade to showcase Chinese traditions. In San Francisco today, says Leung, people of Asian descent "welcome the New Year and invite visitors from all over the world to participate with the Chinese New Year Parade, Flower Fair, public art, exhibitions, tours and various activities."

What's the difference

between Lunar New Year, Chinese New Year, and Spring Festival?

Lunar New Year, Chinese New Year, Spring Festival—you may hear all three of these terms and wonder which is the correct one to use. When referring specifically to a new year event where Chinese traditions and culture are celebrated, you can refer to it as Chinese New Year. Lunar New Year is more inclusive and encompasses all celebrations that mark the new year according to the lunisolar calendar. The term Spring Festival is mostly used in mainland China and marks a weeklong vacation that prompts massive travel across the country as people head home to spend time with family. Tourists will want to avoid traveling during this time, since traffic and ticket prices soar.

What are some popular Lunar New Year traditions?

The Lunar New Year is a time to invite prosperity and welcome good luck. Leung shares that "many cultures hold ancestor worship ceremonies on the first day of Lunar New Year, with different rituals such as visiting and sweeping ancestors' graves and preparing food for them. Folk arts and performances like dragon and lion dances, paper cuts, Chinese opera and martial arts are commonly seen in the Temple Fair during Chinese Lunar New Year."

Many cultures also celebrate with gifts of money handed out in red envelopes. Red is considered a lucky color that can protect against misfortune, and it appears in abundance during Lunar New Year festivals. Foods that symbolize good fortune are also prepared and eaten in the company of family and friends, filling the air with the fragrance of dumplings, noodles and other delectable dishes.

If you're in the vicinity of a Lunar New Year festival, you'll likely be able to hear it, too. To ward off bad luck and scare away evil spirits, loud activities are popular, like fireworks, firecrackers and percussion instrument performances. If your January 1st New Year resolutions could use a little extra good luck, consider ringing in the Lunar New Year on Jan. 22 and perhaps even also bring a few items into your home that feng shui experts say can boost your health and happiness.



Why the **red** envelopes during Lunar New Year?



By **PERRI ORMONT BLUMBERG**
SPECIAL TO SF GATE

This year, Lunar New Year, which is celebrated in many Asian cultures and countries, begins on Sunday, January 22. If you're only vaguely familiar with the practice of exchanging red envelopes with loved ones, a custom that is practiced by

Continued on Next Page

Gong Xi Fa Cai

Happy Year of the Water Rabbit

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NEW YEAR!**



**RAMON "RB"
JOSE BLAS CAMACHO**
MAYOR OF SAIPAN AND STAFF

Gong Xi Fa Cai



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From the staff and management

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many who celebrate Lunar New Year—or if you have never heard of the ritual—you've come to the right place to learn more about this beloved tradition.

What's the story behind the red envelopes?

According to Priscilla Cheng, executive director of New York City non-profit Meals for Unity, the custom of giving red envelopes originates from an ancient story about a demon named Sui, who "would regularly make its appearance at night to terrify children while they were sleeping."

On the eve of Lunar New Year, a child would be given eight coins to play with at night (the number eight is auspicious in some Asian traditions). "The child would wrap the coins in red paper, open the packet, rewrap it and reopen it until he was too tired to continue, and fall asleep," says Cheng. "The eight coins wrapped in red paper were placed under his pillow. When Sui tried to touch the child's head, the eight coins emitted a strong light and scared the demon away. The eight coins turned out to be eight fairies." And so, explains Cheng, "giving red envelopes became a Lunar New Year tradition to keep children safe and bring good luck." While customs vary across Asian countries and cultures, Cheng is Taiwanese-American and grew up celebrating Lunar New Year by partaking in a red envelope exchange, wearing red to bed for an extra boost of luck in the



new year and eating noodles, tangyuan (a dessert made of rice balls), dumplings and more.

What are lucky red envelopes?

"紅包 (hong bao) in Mandarin or 利是 (lai see) in Cantonese are red envelopes containing cash gifts for friends, family and loved ones during Lunar New Year," says Los Angeles-based Joey Ng, Chief Marketing Officer of Yami, the largest online Asian marketplace in the U.S. Since the tradition has its roots in folklore, Ng explains, "the power of the red envelope is in the red paper itself and not the cash gift inside."

"It's actually not the money inside that is lucky, it's the red envelope!" echoes Kristie Hang, a TV host and journalist and expert in Chinese food and culture, who's also based in Los Angeles. Hang elaborates that the color red itself denotes happiness, good luck and serves to ward off bad luck, all ideal to clean the slate for the new year. "There are people who use them as a good luck charm and keep them unopened for the entire year," adds Hang.

And here's a fun piece of trivia courtesy of Ng: There's a red envelope emoji, so if you're wishing people happy Lunar New Year via text or email, look for the little red-and-gold envelope on iOS.

Why do people give red envelopes during Lunar New Year?

Offering a red envelope is a goodwill gesture, signifying prosperity for the new year. But they also offer a chance for people to express their gratitude for others and to offer well wishes for the year ahead. Ng says that celebrants often take turns showering each other with congratulations and hopes—for a happy new year, for health and safety, for wishes to come true, even for better school grades—before the red envelope is handed over.


What should I do with my red envelope?

If you're attending a Lunar New Year party for the first time, you may have some questions about basic etiquette. To start, just like you would say "Happy Hanukkah" or "Merry Christmas," Hang says, be "sure to greet everyone and wish them a 'Happy Lunar New Year.'" Ng suggests you can even

Continued on Next Page

Kung hei fat choi!

YEAR OF THE RABBIT



From the Management & Staff

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HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY
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share a traditional greeting by holding one hand over a closed fist in an back-and-forth motion as you wish each other well.

As for those envelopes, Ng says, “feel free to politely decline a gift at first—‘oh no, please, you shouldn’t have!’—before graciously accepting, ‘OK thank you, happy new year!’” When you do accept a red envelope, be sure to do it “with both hands,” Ng continues, “and keep it in a safe place like a pocket or your bag. Unlike the pomp and circumstance of opening Christmas presents, it’s a sign of disrespect and poor form to open your envelope in front of your gift giver. Take them home and count your blessings (and cold hard cash) in private.”



How much money should you give in a red envelope?

Don’t stress about breaking the bank. “There’s no set rule, do what is reasonable for your gifting budget,” says Ng. “What you typically spend on a holiday gift for that person is a good place to start.” However, be sure to note: dollar amounts with the integer “4,” like \$40 or \$24 must be avoided. (Four sounds like the word for death in several Chinese languages.)

Whatever money you dole out, make sure you are giving out “crisp and clean bills,” says Hang. “People take Lunar New Year very seriously so try not to commit any faux pas,” she says. “Never give wrinkled, old, or dirty bills.” One more

note: Ng stresses that coins are considered a no-go for Lunar New Year. Stick to bills.

Who gets red envelopes on Lunar New Year?

Red envelopes are traditionally given hierarchically: from elders to younger members of a family, such as grandparents to grandchildren, or married couples to single siblings, cousins, nieces and nephews, as well as from bosses to employees. “Your doorman, mail worker, server or Uber driver

might all receive an extra tip in the form of a red envelope as thanks,” Ng explains. “It’s rarely the other way around. The only exception to the seniority order of gifting is when adult children give red envelopes to their aging parents and grandparents as a sign of honor and respect.” Elderly community members are also given red envelopes on Lunar New Year.

Generally, on New Year’s Eve or New Year’s Day, Hang says

Continued on Next Page



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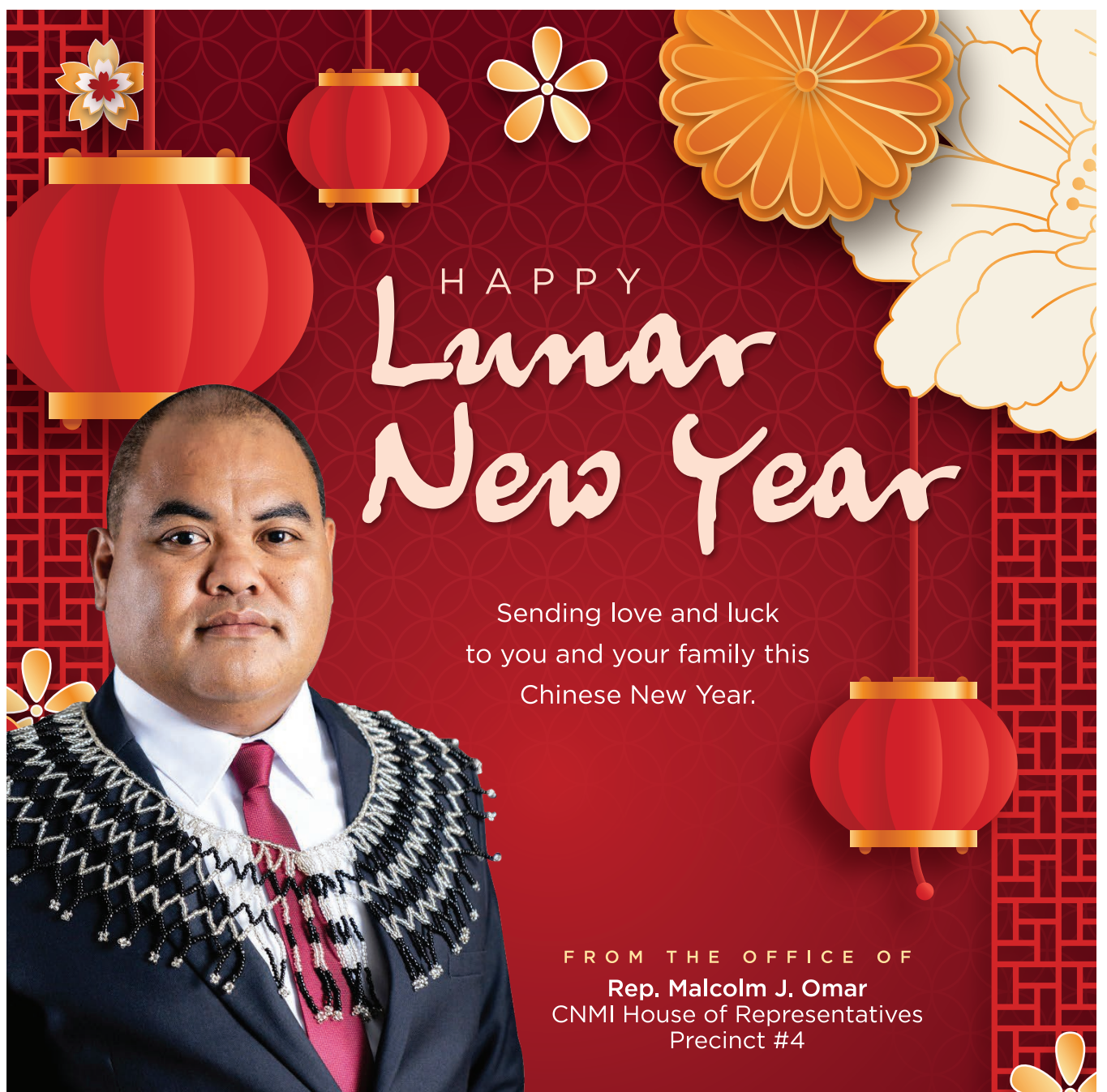
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Lunar New Year

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Rep. Malcolm J. Omar
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Happy Chinese Spring Festival

2023 LION DANCE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023

No.	Company	Time	No.	Company	Time
1	Chinese Association of Saipan	7:40 am	8	Shirley's Coffee Shop, Susupe	10:30 am
2	TanHoldings (TSL Plaza)	8:00 am	9	CTSI Logistics/D&Q Int'l Distributors	10:40 am
3	Century Insurance (JP Center)	8:15 am	10	Hyatt Regency Saipan	11:00 am
4	Century Hotel	8:30 am	11	Aqua Resort Club	11:30 am
5	Saipan Computer Services	9:00 am	12	Majesty Restaurant	11:45 am
6	Transamerica	9:30 am	13	Canton Restaurant	12:00 pm
7	UIC	10:00 am	14	Pho Tam Vietnamese Cuisine	12:30 pm
			15	Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan	1:00 pm
			16	iShop (Crowne Plaza)	1:20 pm
			17	Spicy Thai Noodle Restaurant	1:45 pm
			18	Dollar Days	2:45 pm
			19	DFS/T-Galleria	3:00 pm
			20	The ARC	3:30 pm
			21	Pacific Islands Club	4:00 pm

兔气扬眉迎新福



宏兔大展财滚滚

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children give their best wishes to their family members and in return receive red envelopes with money "to bless them with good luck in the new year."

Where can you buy red envelopes?

Lunar New Year envelopes are available online at places like Amazon, Walmart, Temu and Yami.

Is it bad luck to reuse red envelopes?

Don't bring last year's energy into the new one. "Lunar New Year is all about dusting off the old and ringing in the new," says Ng. "New clothes, new haircut, new red envelopes." Plus, "since most envelopes tend to incorporate the animal zodiac of the year, you likely won't be able to reuse them for another 12 years." But Ng points out that in the era of climate change, we should all try to be as sustainable as possible, so feel free to reuse any gently opened generic red envelopes.

What is written on the red envelopes?

Red envelopes are often decorated beautifully with Chinese calligraphy and symbols. Ng explains that red envelopes are often embossed with gold illustrations, calligraphy and greetings: the red symbolizes good luck, gold symbolizes prosperity.

While some people customize their envelopes with their family name, generally speaking, the envelopes usually have an auspicious saying wishing good luck and a blessing. "Many times there will be a picture of the zodiac year and maybe even a pun using the zodiac animal in a greeting," Hang explains.

Ng shares some examples of symbols you might see on red envelopes:

福: Happiness, prosperity and good luck. This is often written upside down as "upside down" is a homonym of "arrived." Together, the pictograph represents "blessings have arrived."

吉: Luck

新年快乐: Happy New Year

恭喜发财: Commonly mistaken as "Happy New Year," this well known phrase means "Congratulations, get rich!"



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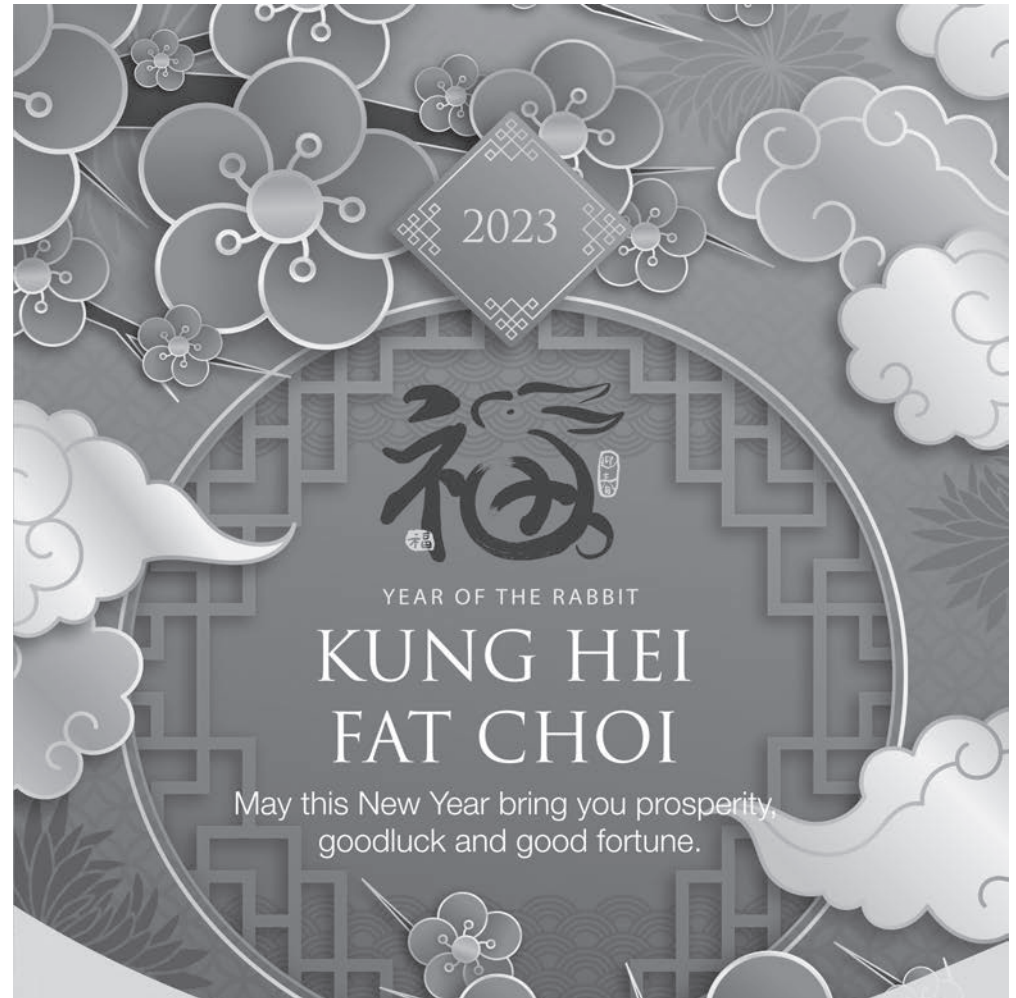
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2023

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YEAR OF THE RABBIT

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YEAR OF THE RABBIT OR THE CAT? Depends on where you live

By MEGAN BRYSON
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

On Jan. 22, 2023, more than a billion people globally will welcome the Year of the Rabbit—or the Year of Cat, depending on which cultural traditions they follow—as the start of the Lunar New Year. In the New York City public school district, Lunar New Year has been observed as a school holiday since 2015.

The Lunar New Year is sometimes called the Chinese New Year, because it follows a calendar that was developed in China; but it is also celebrated in various parts of Asia, such as Korea and Vietnam. Tibetan and Mongolian cultures follow a similar calendar that will start the Year of the Rabbit about a month later, on Feb. 20.

While this calendar is sometimes just called “lunar,” it adds an extra month every few years to stay in sync with the solar cycle, so it’s technically lunar and solar, or luniso-

lar. This means that the date of the Lunar New Year in the Gregorian calendar changes from year to year but always falls in January or February. The Gregorian calendar is the solar calendar used today in most parts of the world, including the United States.

As a scholar of East Asian religions, I am familiar with the wide range of lunar and lunisolar calendars used in different religions and cultures, and especially with the religious significance of the East Asian lunisolar calendar.

The lunisolar calendar that developed in China combines two categories: 12 earthly branches, each of which corresponds to an animal, and 10 heavenly stems, each of which corresponds to one of the five elements—fire, water, wood, metal and earth—and either the feminine yin or masculine yang force.

While this lunisolar calendar brings people together, different countries and cultures have their own legends and customs surrounding

Continued on Page 20

HAPPY
LUNAR
NEW YEAR
2023

Wishing you a good year,
good health and good
fortune for the new year.

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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GONG XI FA CAI

Sending wishes of health,
wealth, and wisdom
in the Lunar New Year



Tan Siu Lin
Foundation

What’s in store for your zodiac sign this year

By KATE LALLY
LIVERPOOL ECHO

Jan. 22, 2023, is the start of a new lunar year, and 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit. Each Chinese zodiac sign is given a horoscope for the year, and the Rabbit is said to be lucky for many. Celebrity astrology expert Marites Allen spoke to the Express about what each sign can expect for 2023.

RAT
Born in: 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020

You could be among the winners in the year of the Water Rabbit. Being blessed with the so-called Future Prosperity star, this could provide you with the auspicious blessings and good fortune, which can be multiplied up to nine times! As they say “Blessed are you who sow every seed you plant, will grow into bountiful crops for great harvest!

OX
Born in: 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021

Your luck in money and career continues this year. Professionally, you are always trustworthy and can be relied on. This year, threats of robbery, losses or possible injuries will be bothering the Ox-born people. Nonetheless, with your innate confidence, strength, and stability, you will always prosper even during difficult times. Just avoid being stubborn, resentful and temperamental, all of which will result in your downfall and destruction.

TIGER
Born in: 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010, 2022

Tigers may continue the harvest of good fortune; however, threats of being robbed, possible losses or injuries loom in your chart. If you have earned good karma through your past actions, the universe will help you manifest some profitable gains this year. Prevent any of these negative influences with the anti-robbery plague in the Northeast or bring with you the anti-robbery talisman.

RABBIT
Born in: 1938, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023

This is your year and there is a lot to gain especially that Rabbit-born people are believed to be the harbinger of calmness, peace and tranquility, she explained. Rabbits are advised to be extra careful not to drive away blessings in the form of money or promotion at work.

The only challenge that Rabbits will be facing this year is the threat to their health and longevity, as they will feel easily drained, and uninspired.

DRAGON
Born in: 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012

Brace yourself for possible negativities brought by hostile energies that indicate heartaches and misunderstandings. It needs a lot of your patience, tolerance, and restraint to avoid being carried away by the usual heartaches that will present themselves to you. Be strong and take the high road. Avoid at all costs any disagreements and opt for peace and harmonious environment.

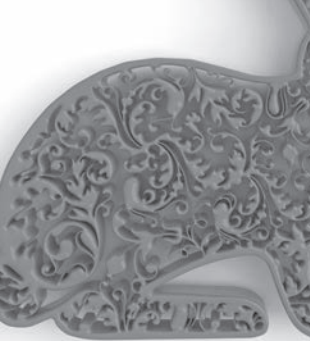
SNAKE
Born in: 1928, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013

The presence of the hostility star in 2023 will rock the peaceful life of Snake-born people. Usually, the Snakes just glide through life and somehow manage to get through the challenges that come their way. This time, there are indications of heartaches, misunderstandings, lawsuits, and plenty of quarrelling. Wear some fire element energies, such as red, pink, or purple or other peaceful charms may include the friendship medallion or peace and harmony symbols.

HORSE
Born in: 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014

Wealth luck and good fortune will roll in easily toward

Horse-born people this 2023! This is not the time to take it easy but rather push yourself to the limit and keep on working smart to achieve unlimited funds, profitable partnerships



or promotions. All these will truly bring you extra income. Your investments could also grow and multiply. If you do not need the funds now, no need to sell; rather it would be best to invest even more in assets such as land, gold, silver, or anything that is within your budget. Try to engage in some side hustle for additional income.

SHEEP
Born in: 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015

Sheep-born people are quite blessed this 2023! Not only because they are the allies and closest to the year’s ruling animal, the Rabbit, but also because their auspicious Victory star provides them with new beginnings and superior blessings. This time around, you may receive requests for collabo-

rations in business, partnerships both in new technology, training certifications, coaching services, and the like.

You could gain new heights and experience many new things that are not familiar to you. This is also a good time to venture into unfamiliar territory for expansion.

MONKEY
Born in: 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016

Finally, after what seemed to be a never-ending struggle for the Monkey-born people last year, the Year of the Rabbit 2023, will be quite a period of relief. Monkeys will be blessed with the very auspicious Victory star. This will surely provide you with a more favorable year.

However, you will still have to manage the threat of three killings starting this year. This is such a bad star that could bring some issues about your name being compromised, loss of money, and some health scare.

Monkey-born are advised to bring the mandala shawl designed with special affirma-

tions and symbol protections.

ROOSTER
Born in: 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017

Roosters could experience both highs and lows despite of this being your conflict year. So take it easy, lie low and best to take a shift, make some necessary changes, or if you can afford it, try to move to a different home, or location or keep travelling.

This is usually the best thing to do when it’s your conflict year. You must always bring with you the Tai sui coin or annual protection medallion as your special talisman and display the Tai sui plague in the West sector of your home or office.

This can still be a very busy year for you with possible cash blessings, which will arrive in the form of a windfall.

DOG
Born in: 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018

Although your animal sign is the secret friend of the Rabbit, it is a must for Dog-born people to provide extra attention on caring for themselves in 2023. This is due to the threat of the misfortune star present in your chart at this time. This can seriously

bring havoc to your life.

There is also the risk of illness, which may affect your income opportunities and working schedules. Always bring your five-element pagoda charm or ultimate mantra amulets.

For extra protection, carry some amulets for health longevity. The Anti-illness Charms will also help neutralize these afflictions.


BOAR
Born in: 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019

Boars are friends with the Rabbit, and that’s good news, indeed. Therefore despite some hurdles, you may expect some help from the energies of the year.

Install the images of your allies and friends in the Northwest sector of your home or office with the images of Rabbit, Sheep or Boar.

Boar people should look after their health as problems with the stomach, itchiness of the skin, or similar infections may pose some risks. This will be irritating and annoying, and if not addressed early, could let you end up in hospital.

Wearing metal element colors and accessories such as white, gold and silver will prove beneficial.



NMTI
NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
P.O. Box 504880 Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 235-6684

Board of Trustee Vacancy Announcement

JVA No.	This announcement is to fill the following vacancies for:
2023-001	Rota Representative For the remaining term set to expire March 11, 2024.
2023-002	Representative for Women For the remaining term set to expire March 11, 2026.
2023-003	Business Representative For the remaining term set to expire March 11, 2026.
2023-004	Business Representative For the remaining term set to expire March 11, 2027.

Qualifications for Board of Trustees:

Qualifications of a Board member consist of the following:

- A legal domiciliary of the CNMI and a U.S. Citizen.
- Of legal adult voting age within the CNMI. In this particular vacancy, the adult must be a registered voter at their respective islands; and
- A demonstrated capacity for representing the CNMI's career and technical training fields relative to meeting the overall purpose of NMTI.

No person may become a Trustee while a CNMI government or NMTI employee, or until one year after the conclusion of CNMI government or NMTI employment.

How to submit interest:

To submit interest to serve on the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Board of Trustees, kindly email a letter of interest and your resume to: bot@nmtechnmi.org

Due date:

Closing Date: **February 07, 2023**

ANTONIO SAL BORIA

JAMES M. MENDIOLA

HENRY L. SANIKOLAS

CHARLENE M. LOZAMA

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY

a. Call to Order

b. Roll Call

c. Adoption of Agenda

d. Adoption of Minutes

1. October 18, 2022 - Regular Meeting

2. December 8, 2022 - Special Meeting

3. January 11, 2023 - Special Meeting

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS¹

III. REPORTS

a. Chair's Report

b. Executive Director's Report

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Casino License

1) Status Update of Bridge Investment Group/Tinian Diamond Casino

b. Professional Services Proposal – Asian Business Knowledge

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Contract – Legal Counsel

1. Proposed Contract

2. Addendum – Legal Counsel's Contract No. 2021-01

b. Key Employee Personal History Disclosure

c. Consulting Agreement – Amerine Gaming Enterprises

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION²

VII. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS ND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

X. ADJOURNMENT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: ANTHONY MENDIOLA CAMACHO,

Civil Action No. 16-0094

ORDER SETTING TIME TO HEAR CLAIMS OF HEIRSHIP AND DEADLINE FOR FILING CLAIMS OF HEIRSHIP

Date: February 27, 2023

aka: "Tonnei" : Time: 1:30 p.m.

Judge: Kenneth L. Govendo

Decedent. : Govendo

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the Court in the above-captioned probate matter will hear all heirship claims from any interested parties/potential heirs to the Estate of Anthony Mendiola Camacho, aka "Tonnei" on **February 27, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.** at the Guma Hustisia, Imwal Aweewe, House of Justice, in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The deadline for filing a claim of heirship in the above-captioned probate matter is **February 26, 2023**. This notice shall be published three times in two newspapers of general circulation in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

SO ORDERED

this 28th day of December 2022.

/s/

Kenneth L. Govendo, Associate Judge

¹Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

²Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

From Page 17

the New Year. Even the animal associated with the year can vary.

Year of the Rabbit or Year of the Cat?

In most parts of East Asia, the new year that begins on Jan. 22 corresponds to the rabbit, and also to the element of water and the feminine yin force. The cycle takes 60 years to complete, so 60th birthdays across East Asia are times for special celebrations. However, the animal associations of the zodiac can vary: In Vietnam, Jan. 22 will

usher in the Year of the Cat instead. The most recent Year of the Cat, in 2011, saw a baby boom in Vietnam because of the good luck associated with that zodiac sign.

One explanation among scholars for why Vietnamese culture celebrates it as the Year of the Cat is that the earthly branch corresponding to “rabbit” is pronounced mao in Mandarin and meo in Vietnamese, which sounds similar to the Vietnamese word for “cat.”

Another explanation comes from two variations of a popular legend about how the 12 zodiac animals were chosen.

According to that legend, either the Buddha or the Jade Emperor, head of the Chinese pantheon, organized a race across a river to choose the zodiac animals and their order.

In the Chinese version, the cat and rat were riding across a river on an ox when the rat, in its drive to be first, pushed the cat into the water so that the cat arrived last and was disqualified. The rabbit was crossing the river by hopping on stones sticking out of the water, but with one lucky leap it landed on a floating log that swiftly carried it to shore, so that the rabbit finished fourth. However, in the Vietnamese

version—which lacks a rabbit—the cat could swim and ended up arriving fourth.

Rabbits in Chinese culture

In the Chinese tradition, people born in particular zodiac years have some of their animal’s characteristics. Since the late 20th century, Chinese regions have seen birth rates spike during Years of the Dragon because dragons are powerful symbols of good fortune and success.

Some animals carry strongly gendered meanings: the Year of the Tiger is widely seen as a good year for male

births, but female tigers are stereotyped as overly aggressive. In Korea, the Year of the Horse is similarly perceived as a bad time for girls to be born.

Conversely, the Year of the Rabbit is seen as a better year for girls because the rabbit’s qualities of kindness, empathy and patience are stereotypically feminine virtues. Moreover, rabbits have been associated with male homosexuality since the 18th century, and the word “rabbit,” tuzi in Mandarin, is a slur for male sex workers. The stigma surrounding homosexuality in Chinese cultures means that, for some people, having a boy in the Year of the Rabbit would be less ideal. However, some members of Chinese LGBTQ+ communities are rejecting this stigma by reclaiming the Rabbit God as a patron deity.

The Rabbit God is not always understood as a god of male same-sex love. He can also be a symbol of longevity. Chinese lore holds that a rabbit and toad on the Moon work with the moon goddess Change to refine the elixir of immortality.

Celebrating the Year of the Rabbit

The Year of the Rabbit will feature rabbit decorations, rabbit-themed marketing, and an abundance of new pet rabbits. However, the celebration will remain the same as in other years.

Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations emphasize family togetherness as well as good luck and prosperity for the coming year. In China, the Lunar New Year marks the world’s largest annual human migration, as people

who work in big cities travel home to see their families for the two-week holiday.

The new year officially ushers in the spring, so it is also called Spring Festival, or Chunjie in Mandarin. To start the New Year on the right foot, people get haircuts, clean their houses and wear new clothes. These new clothes, like most New Year’s decorations, are red, which symbolizes good fortune.

New Year’s foods also aim to bring good fortune. Among the dishes commonly eaten at New Year’s are fish, because in Mandarin “having fish,” you yu, is a homophone for “having a surplus.” Eating a dessert of glutinous rice balls in sweet soup, known as tangyuan, represents the family being complete, because the word for round, yuan, also means “complete.”

Family is the focus of New Year celebrations, which traditionally take place in the home of the husband’s family. Adults generally give gifts of money in red envelopes to younger relatives who are still in school. On the second or third day of the new year, families often travel to the wife’s family home to see the in-laws.

The Lantern Festival, Yuanxiao jie, wraps up the festivities two weeks after the New Year begins with the first full moon of the year. As the name suggests, people celebrate with decorated lanterns, which often have riddles attached. In addition to guessing the answers to these riddles, people celebrate by eating tangyuan or similar round dumplings called yuanxiao, and watching dragon and lion dances.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055 Saipan MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 | Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@cpnmi.com
Website: <https://cpnmiports.com>



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2023
Opening date: January 09, 2023
Location: SAIPAN
Position(s): (1) Receptionist/Secretary
(1) Ports Police Officer I
Closing date: January 27, 2023
SALARY
PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr. to \$15.10/hr.)
PL 7/1 to 7/12 (\$9.73/hr. to \$16.65/hr.)
Location: PORT OF SAIPAN
Position(s): (1) General Maintenance III
SALARY
PL 7/1 to 7/12 (\$9.73/hr. to \$16.65/hr.)
Location: TINIAN
Position(s): (2) General Maintenance I
(2) Custodial I
(4) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee
SALARY
PL 2/1 to 2/12 (\$7.63/hr. to \$13.04/hr.)
PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr. to \$12.42/hr.)
PL 5/1 (\$8.83/hr.)
Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, January 27, 2023.**
Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.
CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.
CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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PO BOX 501055 SAIPAN MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CPNMPORTS.COM



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES
TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TWO EQUIPMENT STORAGE/RENTAL WAREHOUSE BUILDINGS
PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-23
The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the construction of two (2) equipment storage/rental warehouse buildings at the Tinian International Airport, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-001-23.
The project is being funded by CPA and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.
The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at wprater@cpnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri Llagas at receptionist@cpnmiports.com.
Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to wprater@cpnmiports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, local time, Friday, January 27, 2023.
The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.
Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.
The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.
/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
Date: January 4, 2023



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT




INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW23-ITB NO.: 42300028
SUBMISSION DATE: February 09, 2023 **TIME:** 10:00 A.M.
“Route 302 (Naftan Road) Improvement, Saipan”
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
The project package will be available on or after **January 06, 2023** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.
There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **January 25, 2023**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 03, 2023** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ MICHAEL A. BORJA
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW
/S/ VIVIAN M. LIZAMA
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES




DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW23-ITB NO.: 42300029
SUBMISSION DATE: February 15, 2023 **TIME:** 10:00 A.M.
“Flore Rosa St. Road and Drainage Improvement Project”
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
The project package will be available on or after **January 13, 2023** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.
There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 02, 2023**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 09, 2023** to **Mr. George C. Sablan, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ MICHAEL A. BORJA
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW
/S/ VIVIAN M. LIZAMA
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID
DPW23-ITB NO. 42300036
SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 03, 2023 **TIME:** 09:00 A.M.
“Commercial office space for the Secretary’s office, Division of Building Safety Code and Division of Technical Services of the Department of Public Works”
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT HORIGUCHI BLDG, GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS, ANTHONY A. CAMACHO AT (670) 234-9828
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS
/S/ VIVIAN M. LIZAMA
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

Off The Wall

Claim of mammoth bones brings treasure hunters to NYC river

NEW YORK (AP)—Ask people what you might find buried in the muck at the bottom of New York City's East River and they'd likely say "mob boss" before thinking of mammoth bones.

But several groups of treasure hunters have taken to the waterway in recent weeks after hearing a guest on comedian Joe Rogan's podcast claim a boxcar's worth of potentially valuable prehistoric mammoth bones was dumped in the river in the 1940s.

Despite a lack of evidence to back up the story, treasure seekers using boats, diving apparatuses and technology like remote-operated cameras have gone searching, in hopes the murky waters are hiding woolly mammoth tusks.

"I think the chances are just as good as the lottery. And people buy those tickets every day," said Don Gann, 35, of North Arlington, New Jersey, a commercial diver who's been out on the water since early last week with his brother and two workers.

It all started when John Reeves, an Alaskan gold miner with a passion for fossils, came onto "The Joe Rogan Experience" for an episode that aired Dec. 30 to talk about



"Effie," the mummified remains of a baby woolly mammoth found in Alaska in 1948 is on display at the American Museum of Natural History, Friday, Jan. 13, 2023, in New York.

his land, where he has personally uncovered numerous age-old bones and tusks. In the first half of the 20th century, under previous ownership, digging for gold unearthed a trove of prehistoric mammal remains.

Some of that material was

brought to New York City decades ago to be handed over to the American Museum of Natural History. Reeves cited a draft of a report put together by three men, including one who worked at the museum, that included a reference to some

fossils and bones deemed unsuitable for the museum being dumped into the river.

"I'm going to start a bone rush," Reeves told Rogan, before reading from the draft and giving out a location: East River Drive, which is now known as the FDR Drive, at around 65th Street.

"We'll see if anybody out

there's got a sense of adventure," he said, later adding, "Let me tell you something about mammoth bones, mammoth tusks - they're extremely valuable."

After the episode aired, the American Museum of Natural History threw water as cold as the East River on the tale.

"We do not have any record

of the disposal of these fossils in the East River, nor have we been able to find any record of this report in the museum's archives or other scientific sources," it said in a statement.

When reached by The Associated Press via telephone, Reeves refused to talk and instead told a reporter to read the pages of the draft he had posted on social media before hanging up. He didn't answer other calls and emails.

The pages posted on social media identify three men as the authors: Richard Osborne, an anthropologist; Robert Evander, who formerly worked in the American Museum of Natural History's paleontology department; and Robert Sattler, an archaeologist with a consortium of Alaska Native tribes.

Reached by The Associated Press, Sattler said the story about the dumped bones came from Osborne, who died in 2005.

The document cited by Reeves was real, he said, and written in the mid-1990s. But it wasn't something intended for an academic journal. It was a starting point for something—maybe a book—based on Osborne's knowledge of a period in Alaska when mammoth remains were being discovered in plenty. Osborne's father worked at a company involved in the digging.

Stealing home? Man accused of burglarizing Brewers clubhouse

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A man passed out in the bushes outside the Milwaukee Brewers' stadium after a game and, upon awakening, entered the team's clubhouse and stole electronics, a credit card, team memorabilia and other items, according to a criminal complaint.

The 25-year-old man was charged Dec. 14 with felony burglary, online court records show.

The complaint says the man attended a Sept. 8 doubleheader against the San Francisco Giants at Milwaukee's American Family Field, the Milwaukee Journal Senti-

nel reported. He said he drank at least 10 beers, passed out, woke up and got back inside the stadium by pulling on a door until it opened.

He found his way to the clubhouse and started taking stuff from the locker room, the complaint said. A team strength coach said items taken from his office included a laptop, iPods, headphones, a passport and a credit card.

A jersey and a shaving kit were taken from manager Craig Counsell's office, and an equipment manager said a game-used hat, an autographed bat, a 45-year an-

niversary 1982 signed bat, a replica World Series ring, and keys to the team's Arizona spring training facility were stolen from his office. Two game jerseys and a bag with baseballs and pitching devices were taken from the coaches' locker room, according to the complaint.

The man then ordered an Uber to take him home. His roommate told detectives that the man showed up early on Sept. 9 with a duffel bag stuffed with Brewers memorabilia, the complaint said. Investigators recovered most of the items from the man's apartment.

Rat Attack: NYC seeks hands-on leader in anti-rodent fight

NEW YORK (AP)—Hate rats? Are you a "somewhat bloodthirsty" New Yorker with excellent communication skills and "a general aura of badassery"? Then you might have what it takes to be the city's new rat czar.

Mayor Eric Adams' administration posted a job listing this week seeking someone to lead the city's long-running battle against rats. The official job title is "director of rodent mitigation," although it was promptly dubbed the rat czar. Salary range is \$120,000 to \$170,000.

"The ideal candidate is highly motivated and somewhat bloodthirsty, determined to look at all solutions from various angles, including improving operational efficiency, data collection, technology innovation, trash management, and wholesale slaughter," reads that ad.

The posting is whimsical, but the job is daunting.

New York City leaders have been trying to control the rodent population for generations, with mixed results. Sightings of rats in parks, sidewalks and other

places in the city have recently increased.

City rats have survived a multimillion-dollar effort under former Mayor Bill de Blasio that focused on more trash pickups and better housing inspections in targeted neighborhoods. The city also launched a program to use dry ice to suffocate rats in their hiding spots.

Adams, when he was borough president of Brooklyn, once demonstrated a trap that used a bucket filled with a toxic soup to drown rats lured by the scent of food.

Wisconsin waitress gets \$1,000 tip from Christmas customer

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—A Wisconsin waitress got a Christmas morning surprise from a customer—a \$1,000 tip.

Callie Blue, 29, was waiting tables at Gus's Diner in Sun Prairie, just outside Madison, at 6 a.m. Sunday when she started chatting with one of the few customers in the restaurant at that hour, the Wisconsin State Journal reported. He left her a \$1,000 tip.

The customer was Michael

Johnson, president and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County. He told the newspaper he was looking for people in need as part of the club's Pay It Forward campaign. Two donors had given about \$5,000 for tip money.

He said his Christmas Day schedule was booked with families he planned to help starting at 7:30 a.m. so he searched the internet for restaurants open at 6 a.m. and

learned about Gus's Diner. He also had gotten an email about Blue and wanted to measure her customer service skills and demeanor.

He was impressed enough to pull \$1,000 from the \$5,000 tip money. He said about 12 servers got big tips but Blue got the biggest one because it was Christmas morning and she was the last recipient.

Blue called the tip amazing and said she'll use it to help feed her four horses.

Increasing fine for left lane slowpokes gets quick traction

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—A bill allowing police to charge a bigger fine for people driving slow in the left lane of interstates and other multilane highways is one of the first to be taken up at the South Carolina Statehouse in 2023.

A Senate subcommittee Tuesday approved increasing the fine from \$25 to up to \$100 and giving most of the increased amount to the state Highway Patrol. The full Senate Transportation Committee

is scheduled to take up the bill Wednesday.

Lawmakers passed the so-called "slowpoke" bill in 2021. Over roughly a year, state troopers wrote nearly 500 tickets. It requires drivers in the left lane to move over if a car comes up behind them and the right lane is clear.

The fine is not a criminal penalty and doesn't get reported to a driving record.

The senators on the subcommittee said they noticed

compliance when the law was first passed, but slower drivers have started to creep back into the left lane, necessitating a tougher penalty.

"Would the committee entertain a motion to make this retroactive—to this morning—maybe a blue Camry?" joked Republican state Sen. Sean Bennett who has about a 95 mile (153 kilometer) commute from Summerville to the Statehouse on Interstate 26.

Science & Technology

New ice core analysis shows sharp Greenland warming spike

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

A sharp spike in Greenland temperatures since 1995 showed the giant northern island 2.7 degrees (1.5 degrees Celsius) hotter than its 20th-century average, the warmest in more than 1,000 years, according to new ice core data.

Until now Greenland ice cores—a glimpse into long-running temperatures before thermometers—hadn't shown much of a clear signal of global warming on the remotest north central part of the island, at least compared to the rest of the world. But the ice cores also hadn't been updated since 1995. Newly analyzed cores, drilled in 2011, show a dramatic rise in temperature in the previous 15 years, according to a study in Wednesday's journal *Nature*.

"We keep on (seeing) rising temperatures between 1990s and 2011," said study lead author Maria Hoerhold, a glaciologist at the Alfred Wegener Institute in Germany. "We have now a clear signature of global warming."

It takes years to analyze ice core data. Hoerhold has new cores from 2019 but hasn't finished studying them yet. She expects the temperature rise to continue as Greenland's ice sheet and glaciers have been melting faster recently.



A boat navigates at night next to large icebergs near the town of Kulusuk, in eastern Greenland on Aug. 15, 2019.

AP

Greenland is that natural weather variability, undulations because of an occasional weather system called Greenland blocking, in the past had masked human-caused climate change, Hoerhold said.

But as of about 25 years ago, the warming became too big to be hidden, she said.

Past data also showed Greenland not warming as fast as the rest of the Arctic, which is now warming four times faster than the global average. But the island appears to be catching up.

Ice core data for years showed Greenland acted a bit differently from the Arctic. That's likely because of Greenland blocking, Hoerhold said. Other scientists said as a giant land mass Greenland was less affected by melting sea ice and other water factors compared to the rest of the Arctic, which is much more water-adjacent.

Hoerhold's team drilled five new cores near old cores so as to match established ice core records. They use the difference between two different types of oxygen isotopes found in the ice to calculate temperature, using an already established formula that is checked against observed data.

Hoerhold and outside scientists said the new warming data is bad news because Greenland's ice sheet is melting. In fact, the study ends with data from 2011 and the next year had a record melt across Greenland and the island's ice loss has been on high since then, she said.

description used for other long-term temperature data showing climate change.

The jump in temperature after 1995 is so much larger than pre-industrial times before the mid-19th century that there is "almost zero" chance that it is anything but human-caused climate change, Hoerhold said.

The warming spike also mirrors a sudden rise in the amount of water running off from Greenland's melting ice, the study finds.

What had been happening in

strong warming sets in," said climate scientist Martin Stendel of the Danish Meteorological Institute, who wasn't part of the research.

The ice cores are used to make a chart of proxy temperatures for Greenland running from the year 1000 to 2011. It shows temperatures gently sloping cooler for the first 800 years, then wiggling up and down while sloping warmer until a sharp and sudden spike hotter from the 1990s on. One scientist compared it to a hockey stick, a

China records 1st population fall in decades as births drop

BEIJING (AP)—China's population shrank for the first time in decades last year as its birthrate plunged, official figures showed Tuesday, adding to pressure on leaders to keep the economy growing despite an aging workforce and at a time of rising tension with the U.S.

Despite the official numbers, some experts believe China's population has been in decline for a few years—a dramatic turn in a country that once sought to control such growth through a one-child policy.

Many wealthy countries are struggling with how to respond to aging populations, which can be a drag on economic growth as shrinking numbers of workers try to support growing numbers of elderly people.

But the demographic change will be especially difficult to manage in a middle-income country like China, which does not have the resources to care for an aging population in the

same way that one like Japan does. Over time, that will likely slow its economy and perhaps even the world's, and could potentially keep inflation higher in many developed economies.

"China has become older before it has become rich," said Yi Fuxian, a demographer and expert on Chinese population trends at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

A slowing economy could also pose a political problem for the ruling Communist Party, if shrinking opportunities foment public discontent. Anger over strict COVID-19 lockdowns, which were a drag on the economy, spilled over late last year into protests that in some cases called for leader Xi Jinping to step down—a rare direct challenge to the party.

The National Bureau of Statistics reported Tuesday that the country had 850,000 fewer people at the end of 2022 than the previous year. The tally includes only the population of mainland China, excluding Hong Kong

and Macao as well as foreign residents.

Over 1 million fewer babies were born than the previous year amid a slowing economy and widespread pandemic lockdowns, according to official figures. The bureau reported 9.56 million births in 2022; deaths ticked up to 10.41 million.

It wasn't clear if the population figures were affected by a widespread COVID-19 outbreak following the easing of pandemic restrictions last month. China recently reported 60,000 COVID-related deaths since early December, but some experts believe the government is likely underreporting deaths.

The last time China is believed to have experienced a population decline was during the Great Leap Forward, a disastrous drive for collective farming and industrialization launched by then-leader Mao Zedong at the end of the 1950s that produced a massive famine that killed tens of millions of people.

Science Matters

Perovskite: Remember that name

Materials using the mineral perovskite are inspiring hopes that they could be used in radically new optical-electronic devices — if some difficult problems can be resolved.



Perovskite
Mineral discovered in Ural Mountains; contains calcium titanium oxide crystals

A natural semiconductor useful in electronic applications

Named after the Russian mineralogist Lev Perovsky (1792-1856)

Adjustable materials

Metal halide perovskites
Have optical properties that can be tuned by adjusting electric charge, temperature, pressure or chemicals

Perovskite lasers and LEDs



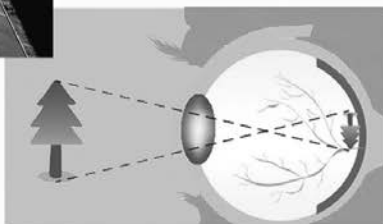
Light-detecting retinal implant

Smart sensor wristband



Medical imaging

Solar cells



Two worries to resolve

Long term stability of perovskite materials is worse than that of silicon-based devices

Toxic lead in perovskite means devices have to be sealed to prevent leaks; fabrication and disposal and recycling must be done safely.

Source: He Dong and Chenxin Ran of Northwestern Polytechnical University (Xi'an, China); Ron Lavinski crystal photo; Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service © 2023 TNS

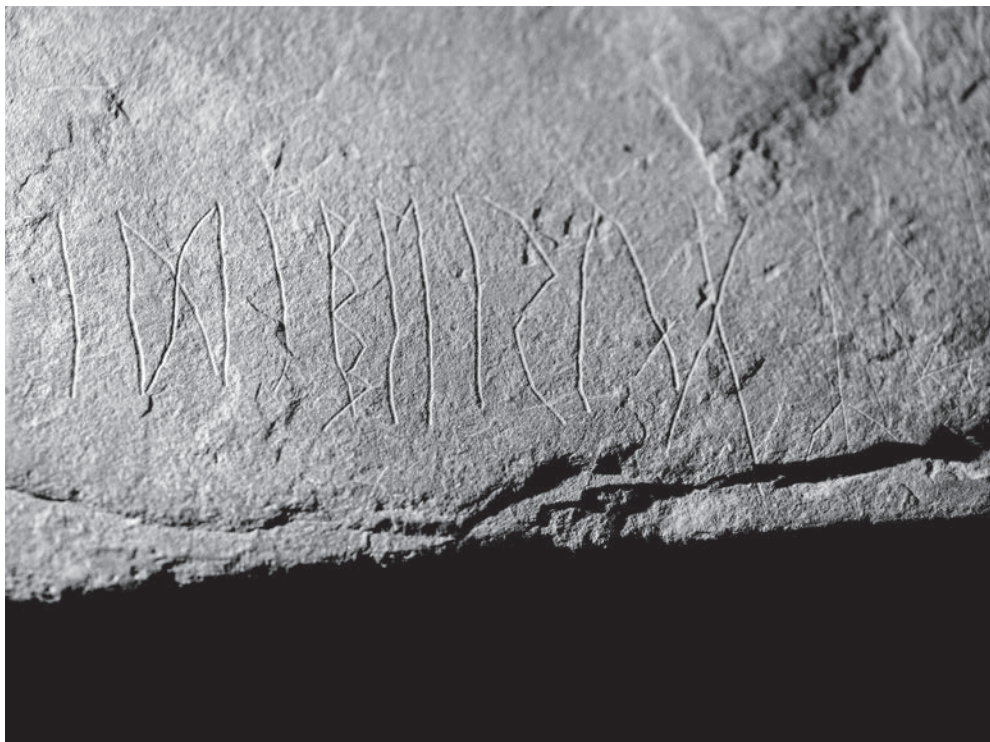
Life & Style

Norway archaeologists find 'world's oldest runestone'

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Archaeologists in Norway said Tuesday that have found a runestone which they claim is the world's oldest, saying the inscriptions are up to 2,000 years old and date back to the earliest days of the enigmatic history of runic writing.

The flat, square block of brownish sandstone has carved scribbles, which may be the earliest example of words recorded in writing in Scandinavia, the Museum of Cultural History in Oslo said. It said it was "among the oldest runic inscriptions ever found" and "the oldest datable runestone in the world."

"This find will give us a lot of knowledge about the use of runes in the early Iron Age. This may be one of the first attempts to use runes in Norway and Scandinavia on stone," Kristel Zilmer, a pro-



The runestone found at Tyrifjorden, Norway, is shown at the Museum of Cultural History in Oslo, Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023.

told The Associated Press.

Older runes have been found on other items, but not on stone. The earliest runic find is on a bone comb found in Denmark. Zilmer said that maybe the tip of knife or a needle was used to carve the runes.

The runestone was discovered in the fall of 2021 during an excavation of a grave near Tyrifjord, west of Oslo, in a region known for several monumental archaeological finds. Items in the cremation pit—burnt bones and charcoal—indicate that the runes likely were inscribed between A.D. 1 and 250.

"We needed time to analyze and date the runestone," she said to explain why the finding was first announced on Tuesday.

Measuring 31 centimeters by 32 centimeters (12.2 inches by 12.6 inches), the stone has several types of inscriptions and not all make linguistic sense. Eight runes on the front of the

stone read "idiberug"—which could be the name of a woman, a man or a family.

Zilmer called the discovery "the most sensational thing that I, as an academic, have had."

There is still a lot of research to be done on the rock, dubbed the Svingerud stone after the site where it was found.

"Without doubt, we will obtain valuable knowledge about the early history of runic writing," Zilmer said.

The runestone will be exhibited for a month, starting on Jan. 21, at the Museum of Cultural History, which has Norway's largest collection of historical artifacts, from the Stone Age to modern times.

Runes are the characters in several Germanic alphabets that were used in northern Europe from ancient times until the adoption of the Latin alphabet. They have been found on stones and different household objects.

Actor Julian Sands missing in Southern California mountains

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, Calif. (AP)—Actor Julian Sands, star of several Oscar-nominated films including "A Room With a View," has been missing for five days in the Southern California mountains, where



Sands

he was hiking, authorities said Wednesday.

Sands, 65, was reported missing Friday on a trail on Mt. Baldy, San Bernardino County sheriff's spokeswoman Gloria Huerta said.

Search and rescue crews looked for Sands in the area

of the San Gabriel Mountains, about 40 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles, but had to suspend the ground search on Saturday because of trail conditions and avalanche risks, and have not been able to resume since, Huerta said.

They are searching for Sands as weather allows with helicopters and drones, and will resume the ground search when it's safe, authorities said.

The latest in a series of storms that have created dangerous mountain conditions swept into Southern California on Friday and lasted through the week-

end. Two other hikers have recently died in the area.

Representatives for Sands, an English-born actor who now lives in North Hollywood, did not immediately reply to emails seeking comment or further details.

Sands starred opposite Helena Bonham Carter in the 1985 British romance from director James Ivory, "A Room With a View."

He also had major roles in 1989's "Warlock," 1990's "Arachnophobia," 1991's "Naked Lunch," 1993's "Boxing Helena," and 1995's "Leaving Las Vegas."

Sands has worked consistently in the decades since with smaller roles in film and television.

fessor at University of Oslo, of which the museum is part,

Rapper Flo Rida awarded \$82.6M for breach of contract case

MIAMI (AP)—Hip hop artist Flo Rida was awarded \$82.6 million on Wednesday after a South Florida jury found that the makers of Celsius energy drinks breached a contract with the rapper and singer, and tried to hide money from him.

Flo Rida, whose real name is Tamar Dillard, and his production company, Strong Arm Productions, had sued Boca Raton-based Celsius Holdings Inc. in Broward County court in May 2021, claiming that the company had violated the conditions of an endorsement deal.

"Basically, I helped birth this company, and all we was looking for was some trustworthy people who acted as if they

were family," Dillard told The Associated Press. "And then when it comes down to the success of today, they just forgot about me."

Lawyers for Celsius argued in court and in previous filings that the company reached its greatest success after the Flo Rida endorsement deal ended—and that other business decisions led to increased sales and stock value. Celsius could still appeal the verdict, but it wasn't immediately clear if they would. Attorneys for the company didn't immediately respond to messages seeking comment from The Associated Press.

According to the civil com-

plaint, Flo Rida was a brand ambassador for Celsius from 2014 to 2018. During that time, Dillard played an instrumental role in launching a new era for the company's brand development, growth and expansion, introducing Celsius to millions around the world, the complaint said. Dillard and his attorneys argued that the partnership paved the way for Celsius to grow its product portfolio, which includes adding a powder product and new product line called Celsius Heat in conjunction with Flo Rida's partnership. The company has consistently sold and collected revenues for its powder form products since then.

Fiancee must pick up pieces after relationship crumbles

DEAR ABBY: I am a 59-year-old man. My 50-year-old fiancée lives in a nice home, but after a 15-year loving relationship, she decided last week to be with someone else. She had recently lost a great deal of weight, bought a new car and started to do things I felt were not age-appropriate—although I never said anything adverse about them.

She's now staying in a weekly rental motel room with him. It leads me to believe they both left relationships and had nowhere else to go. She didn't give me a chance to fight for us (counseling, etc.) or even a heads-up that she was unhappy. One afternoon when I got home from work, I found a note from her saying she was sorry for not being able to tell me in person, but she was doing this for herself.

I have always been an honorable person in any relationship I have had. This is hard for me to understand and move on from. I have never been this hurt and emotionally drained. She will not communicate with me verbally, only through emails and texts. I feel desperate and lost. Please give me any encouragement that there is light somewhere at the end of the tunnel.

EMOTIONALLY DRAINED IN MAINE

DEAR EMOTIONALLY DRAINED: Although your lady friend didn't give you the chance to fight for her by getting counseling, my first bit of advice is to make an appointment with a therapist and start fighting for YOURSELF. You may not

have known your fiancée as well as you thought you did. Once you regain some perspective, you may realize that something changed when she made the effort to start losing weight. (I'm guessing this was around the time she met the man she's now living with.)

Please understand that the woman you invested so much time in was dishonest, cowardly and selfish to have treated you the way she did. I wish you had mentioned why the two of you hadn't married in the 15 years you were together. But, my friend, you dodged a bullet. A licensed psychotherapist will help you to realize how LUCKY you are.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My brother-in-law recently moved near us. He never misses a chance to one-up others or brag about everything he has. Others have noticed this as well. We are all retired and living fairly well. However, comparisons are made, innuendos are tossed around and he has even referenced our children "needing" their inheritance, while his kids don't "since they have great jobs."

I'm close to my sister and happy to have her near me, but I'm not sure how to handle the situation with her spouse. I try to minimize my time with him and ignore him when he speaks, however difficult it may be. My husband no longer wants anything to do with him, and I can't say I blame him. But I don't want to cause a rift between my sister and me. Advice?

DEALING WITH A NARCISSIST

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR DEALING: There are two ways to handle this. The first would be to recognize that people who feel the need to do what your brother-in-law has been doing usually do it out of insecurity. The second would be to tell your sister how her husband's remarks affect you and your husband -- and that if he doesn't knock it off, they'll be seeing a lot less of you. Then let HER handle it.

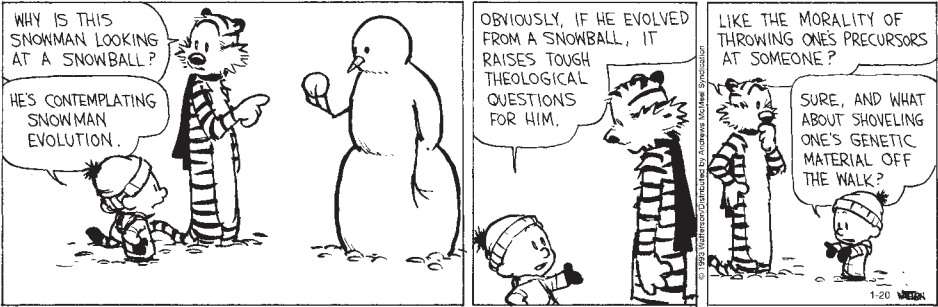
■■■■■

Good advice for everyone -- teens to seniors -- is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



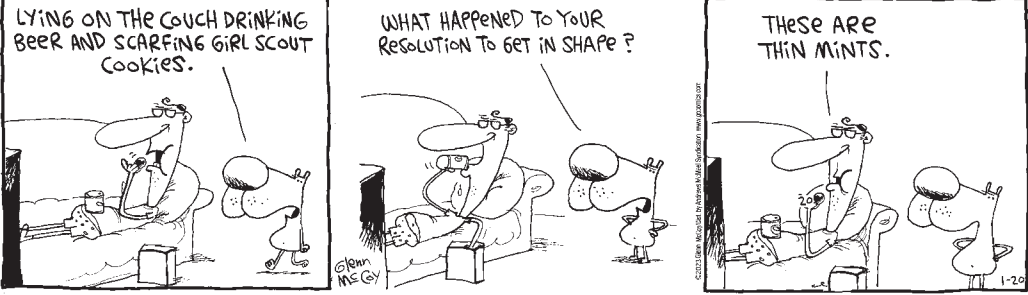
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Hogwarts messenger

4 Balkan native

8 Scene stealers

12 Saigon soup

13 Whittle (down)

14 Sheltered

15 Over-sensitive

17 Supreme Court count

18 Verve

19 Wall St. debut

21 Glacial

22 Film reviewer

26 Sea spouter

29 Devious

30 — pro nobis

31 Corridor

32 Picnic dessert

33 Chimney buildup

34 "All bets — off"

35 Fire

DOWN

20 Snoop

23 Animated figure

24 Press

25 Actress

26 "Come again?"

27 Mata —

28 Sir

29 Do

32 Layered dessert

33 Hotel offering

35 Cartoon frame

36 Texas city

38 "Scandal" star

39 Painter

42 Engrave

43 TV host

44 "Shoo!"

45 Govt. lender

46 "Wham!"

47 Small battery

49 Airport org.

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	E	R	F	O	P	R	I	L	A	P
U	R	A	L	R	E	F	I	A	M	I
L	A	Y	E	R	C	A	K	E	W	O
A	S	S	E	S	S	L	O	C	K	E
C	T	M	E	D	A	L				
R	O	L	E	G	A	G	F	E	T	E
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P	E	W	S	O	R	S	S	K	I	T
N	I	N	N	Y	A	H				
T	U	C	C	I	G	R	A	T	E	S
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C	A	R	E	D	A	M	E	T	T	E
T	H	E	S	E	T	S	R	E	S	T

Yesterday's answer 1-20

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Yan-Kay Crystal Lowe, 42; Skeet Ulrich, 53; Rainn Wilson, 57; David Lynch, 77.

Happy Birthday: Distance yourself from troublemakers and bad influences. Keep things in perspective by concentrating on what you want to achieve. You have plenty to gain this year if you stay focused and intent on broadening your awareness and skills, and pushing yourself in a direction that will help you reach your dreams. Make stability, fitness and love your priorities. Your numbers are 6, 17, 23, 29, 31, 37, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Fight for the underdog, but don't put yourself in harm's way. Think big, be moderate and do the work yourself; you will make headway. A financial gain or perk will take you by surprise. Have faith in your ability and reap the rewards. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll learn from the experiences you encounter. Address sensitive issues fairly to avoid backlash. If you or someone else overre-acts, it will defeat the purpose, and nothing will change for the better. Patience is in your best interest, and time is on your side. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Leave nothing undone. The extra hours or work you put in will give you an advantage. Actions speak louder than words when it comes time to advance. An opportunity will develop through someone you enjoy working alongside. Make a pitch and see what happens. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Emotional issues will make you more demonstrative and encourage you to speak your mind and bring about change. Keep an open mind, but don't give in to someone who is taking advantage of you or being manipulative. Protect your assets and feelings. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Tune in to what your body is telling you. Make your health, appearance and meaningful relationships priorities. You'll develop an exciting plan that will bring you more significant opportunities to use your skills effectively. Be true to yourself. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't be shy. Accept an invitation, participate in events and make personal changes that spark your imagination and bring you one step closer to living up to your expectations. An encounter with someone unique will give you the incentive to do your own thing. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Socialize or pursue knowledge and skills that offer solutions to troublesome or uncertain situations. You'll get what you want if you do your best to please others. Be a good listener and a trusted friend. Refuse to let your emotions lead you astray. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Stop procrastinating and implement the changes that bring you closer to the happiness you desire. Be bold, ask questions and get the lowdown regarding who is an accomplice and who isn't. Don't waste time on people who can't make up their minds. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put everything you've got into physical changes and clean living. Eliminate clutter by passing along what you no longer use to someone in need. Set an example for friends and family, and you'll gain respect and help to implement your suggestions. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Complete your plans and embrace change and new beginnings wholeheartedly. Keeping minimalism in the back of your mind will help ward off overindulgence and overspending. Don't let your uncertainty turn into a costly venture. Say no to persuasive suggestions. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take pride in how you run your home and treat others. Look for common ground when dealing with others, and a solid friendship and support system will unfold. Personal growth, fitness and proper eating habits will build confidence and fetch compliments. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Share your thoughts and listen to suggestions. Protect your health and physical well-being. Don't make a change to please someone. Take pride in how you present who you are, how you look and what you are willing to offer. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, proactive and optimistic. You are inconsistent and entertaining.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
18						19	20			
		21				22		23	24	25
26	27	28				29			30	
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45	46	47			48	49				
50				51				52		
53				54						55

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

				9	6	3		
			2			5		
5	6		3				7	
1						4		
9				4				7
			8					2
	1				9		6	3
		3				8		
		6	1	8				

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/20

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

5	3	1	2	9	4	6	7	8
9	8	4	6	5	7	1	3	2
6	7	2	8	3	1	4	5	9
1	5	8	4	2	9	7	6	3
7	4	3	5	6	8	2	9	1
2	9	6	1	7	3	5	8	4
4	6	7	9	8	2	3	1	5
3	1	9	7	4	5	8	2	6
8	2	5	3	1	6	9	4	7

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/19

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GALLAGHER (1946-2022)

Solution: 12 letters

L G G H U M O R P U D N A T S
A E N R O W S C A D I R O L F
E R G I A S L E I A I M E E D
R A R E Z P V E B E A D D R D
O L I S N I E A T R G Y O G O
W Y F N L D R S D E N F S E F
T N F A E N A E H O O F T I C O
M H I E A P E M H A O A T I N D
A A N B H D A T T G M U C E R
L M Y T S T N S E E A R O I A
L B O E I A M S H O W L M D Z
E O K C F I E I V O M I L U I
T O A A J N O L E M R E T A W
J K N R E N I L O P M A R T G
E S R E T I R W O R D P L A Y

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1/20

Aimee, Anthony, Audience, Barnaby, Beans, Books, Cake, Deedra, Fans, Florida, Gallagherizing, Geico, Germalyn, Grapes, Griffin, Humor, Jim Stafford, Jokes, Legend, Live, Mallet, Movie, Rows, Show, Sitcom, Sledge-O-Matic, Stage, Stand-up, Toothpaste, Tour, Trampoline, Two-Real, Watermelon, Witty, Wizard of Odd, Wordplay, Writer

Yesterday's Answer: Cauliflower

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Bam Adebayo scores 26 points, Heat beat Pelicans, 124-98



NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Bam Adebayo scored 26 points and the Miami Heat led comfortably from the first quarter on in a 124-98 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans on Wednesday night.

"We played great basketball for the entire game," said Adebayo, who made 11 of 15 shots in about 30 minutes on the court.

"We're always trying to get each other going and you love to have teammates like that," Adebayo added. "I'm just getting to my spots. Guys want me to be assertive, want me to be aggressive."

Jimmy Butler added 18 points and Gabe Vincent hit four 3-pointers as part of a 16-point night for the Heat. They never trailed and led for all but the first two minutes en route to their fourth victory in five games.

The Heat outscored New Orleans 64-48 in the paint and out-rebounded the Pelicans 43-37, and that dominance inside had a lot to do with Adebayo's play, Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

"We ultimately want to get Bam involved as much as possible. We can't get the ball to him enough," Spoelstra said. "He's great at getting all the way to the rim and he was doing that tonight."

CJ McCollum scored 21 points for Pelicans. They've lost seven of 10 while playing much of that stretch without star power forward Zion Williamson.

Jonas Valanciunas had 18 points and 10 rebounds for New Orleans, which briefly trimmed a 19-point halftime deficit to 12 in the third quarter before Miami pulled away again.

"We didn't show up with a level of urgency that it takes to play against good teams," Pelicans coach Willie Green said. "Tonight we didn't have it. Normally, we do, but tonight, we didn't."

"This is the time of the season where it's sort of the dog days," Green added. "You've got to do all the little things to get your-



Miami Heat center Bam Adebayo (13) goes to the basket in the second half of an NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Pelicans in New Orleans, Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023.

selves prepared to play."

Miami guard Kyle Lowry returned from left knee soreness that had sidelined him four games. He played 22 minutes and finished with seven points, eight rebounds and four assists.

"It was good to get back," Lowry said. "I feel pretty good right now and hopefully that won't reoccur."

Spoelstra said Lowry could have played more but there was no need to push him with the game in hand.

"His minutes, particularly in the first half, were really good," Spoelstra said, noting an early steal by Lowry and his generally physical presence on defense.

Miami led by 20 in the first quarter when Vincent's 3 made it 30-10. The Pelicans responded with a 10-2 run and briefly got as close as 33-23 on Naji Marshall's driving layup as he was fouled, but Miami didn't let it get tighter in the opening half.

Vincent's 3 as the horn sounded to end the first quarter started a 12-2 run and Miami rebuilt its lead to 23 when Max Strus' 3 made it 54-21.

"Offensively, Kyle, Jimmy, Tyler, Bam were all incredibly assertive right from start of the game and that's kind of mentality we have to have," Spoelstra said.

Miami reached the most points scored against New Orleans in a first half this season when Tyler Herro's finger roll made it 70-46.

Alvarado's banked 3 in the final seconds of the half pulled New Orleans to 70-51.

Hawks 130, Mavericks 122

In Dallas, Dejounte Murray scored 30 points, Trae Young had 18 points and 12 assists in another matchup with Luka Doncic and the Atlanta Hawks beat the Dallas Mavericks 130-122 on Wednesday night.

John Collins added 19 points as the Hawks won a season-best fourth consecutive game to get over .500 (23-22) for the first time since Dec. 27.

Doncic scored 30 points but fell to 4-3 in head-to-head meetings with Young since they were traded for each other as top-five

picks on draft night in 2018. Doncic went third overall and Young fifth.

Murray and Collins combined to go 7 of 11 from 3-point range as the Hawks shot 57% from deep and 50% overall on a hot-shooting night for both teams. Dallas was 52% overall.

Christian Wood had 22 points and nine rebounds for the Mavericks.

Grizzlies 115, Cavaliers 114

In Memphis, Tenn., Desmond Bane scored 25 points, Ja Morant had 24 and Memphis won its 11th straight game to match the franchise record, beating Cleveland.

Steven Adams tipped in the winner with 16 seconds left. Adams was in position to tip in a miss by Morant, and Dillon Brooks preserved the victory by blocking Garland's 3-point try at the buzzer.

Darius Garland led Cleveland with 24 points, Caris LeVert had 23, and Evan Mobley added 18 points and 15 rebounds. Cleveland played

without scoring leader Donovan Mitchell because of a strained left groin.

Nuggets 122, Grizzlies 118

In Denver, Jamal Murray hit a go-ahead floater with 55.9 seconds remaining, Nikola Jokic broke Denver's record for assists on the way to his 14th triple-double of the season and the Nuggets rallied to beat Minnesota.

Jokic finished with 31 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds as he navigated foul trouble to help the Nuggets win their 15th straight at home. The two-time reigning NBA MVP passed Alex English for the most assists in team history. Jokic has 3,686 career assists in 568 games—English had 3,679 over 837 games in a Denver uniform.

Jaden McDaniels had 18 points for Minnesota.

Kings 116, Lakers 111

In Los Angeles, De'Aaron Fox scored 32 points and Sacramento beat Los Angeles for its fifth straight victory.

Harrison Barnes added 20 points and Kevin Huerter had 18 to help the Kings (25-18) move into third place in the Western Conference.

LeBron James led Los Angeles with 32 points and Russell Westbrook added 19. The Lakers have lost four of five.

Kings center Domantas Sabonis missed the game due to illness. Coach Mike Brown said before the game it was a stomach issue that had been going around the team. Richaun Harris started in place of Sabonis and had a season-high 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Thunder 126, Pacers 106

In Oklahoma City, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Isaiah Joe each scored 23 points and Oklahoma rolled past Indiana for its fourth straight victory.

Joe, a reserve, tied a career high with seven made 3-pointers in just 22 minutes.

Lu Dort had 22 points and a career-high 11 rebounds and

Kenrich Williams added 12 points and a career-best 10 assists for the Thunder.

Andrew Nembhard scored 18 points for Indiana. The Pacers have lost five straight.

Wizards 116, Knicks 105

In New York, Kyle Kuzma scored 27 points, Bradley Beal had 18 in his return from a five-game absence and Washington never trailed against New York.

Kuzma also had 13 rebounds and seven assists. Beal shot 7 for 11 after being sidelined by a strained left hamstring. The Wizards went 1-4 without him.

Kristaps Porzingis had 22 points, 11 rebounds and five assists for Washington against his former team.

Jalen Brunson scored 32 points for New York.

Hornets 122, Rockets 117

In Houston, Terry Rozier scored 26 points and Charlotte held off reeling Houston to snap a five-game skid Wednesday night after LaMelo Ball injured his left ankle again.

The Hornets, who have the worst record in the Eastern Conference, got their first win since Jan. 6 over the hapless Rockets. Houston, which has the NBA's worst record and hasn't won since Dec. 26, has lost a season-high 12 straight.

Jalen Green tied a career high with 41 points to lead the Rockets.

Jazz 126, Clippers 103

In Salt Lake City, Lauri Markkanen had 34 points and 12 rebounds to help Utah beat short-handed Los Angeles.

Markkanen returned after missing two games because of a bruised hip. He made six 3-pointers and had his 11th game with at least 30 points this season.

The Jazz led wire-to-wire and by as many as 25 points over the weary Clippers, on the second game of a back-to-back set, without Kawhi Leonard and Paul George.

Norman Powell led Los Angeles with 30 points.

By **KYLE HIGHTOWER**
AP SPORTS WRITER

Chris Ford, a member of the Boston Celtics 1981 championship team, a longtime NBA coach and the player credited with scoring the league's first 3-point basket, has died, his family announced Wednesday in a statement. He was 74.

The family revealed the death through the Celtics. No official cause was given, but the statement said Ford died Tuesday. The Press of Atlantic City reported he died in Philadelphia after suffering a heart attack earlier this month.

"Chris was beloved by his family, friends and teammates.

Chris Ford, champ as player, coach with Celtics, dies at 74

He had a great love for his family, the city of Boston, the fans and the entire Celtics family," the family statement said. "He always showed humility and respect for all those that were fortunate enough to be a part of his life."

Ford was voted the team's MVP in his first season with Boston. He retired following the 1981-82 season and was an assistant coach for the Celtics for seven seasons from 1983 to 1990, helping coach former teammates Larry Bird, Kevin McHale and Robert Parish to two titles in 1984 and 1986

while serving under coach K.C. Jones.

He is one of four former Celtics to have won championships as both a player and coach, joining Bill Russell, Tom Heinsohn and Jones.

"As a player and coach, Chris Ford's career spanned over a decade of Celtics basketball, and he made his mark every step of the way," the Celtics said in a statement. "Doc, as he was affectionately known by his teammates, was a fundamentally versatile all-around guard. ... The Boston Celtics sends their deepest

sympathies to the Ford family and their many friends."

Born in Atlantic City, New Jersey, Ford starred a Villanova, advancing to the 1970 NCAA Elite Eight and 1971 Final Four. He scored 1,433 points over three seasons for the Wildcats, with his 238 assists in 1970-71 still the school's single-season record.

Former Villanova coach Jay Wright posted a photo of Ford in his Wildcats uniform on Twitter, calling him his "boyhood idol."

"A creative, gifted tough (Villanova) guard," the post

said. "He was more of an idol when I knew him as a great man, loyal friend and passionate (Villanova) alumni. Chris is loved by the VU community. I will miss our talks."

Ford was drafted by the Detroit Pistons in 1972. He spent six seasons there before being traded to the Celtics. He averaged a career-high 15.6 points and 4.7 assists per game his first season in Boston in 1978-79. He opened the following season on Oct. 12, 1979, by sinking the first 3-point shot in NBA history in the first quarter of Boston's win over

the Houston Rockets.

Ford succeeded Jimmy Rodgers as Celtics coach and led the team for five seasons from 1990-91 through 1994-95.

He compiled a 222-188 record with four playoff appearances as Boston's head coach, but his teams never advanced beyond the conference finals.

Ford also had a pair of two-year head coaching stints with the Milwaukee Bucks (1996-98) and Los Angeles Clippers (1998-2000). He began the 2003-04 season as an assistant for the Philadelphia 76ers and coached the final 30 games that season after Randy Ayers was fired.

Hampered by bad hip, Rafael Nadal loses at Australian Open



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Rafael Nadal bowed his head during changeovers and rested his elbows on his knees, the very picture of resignation.

What already was a poor start to 2023, following a year marred by all manner of health issues, reached a low point at the Australian Open on Wednesday.

The defending champion and No. 1 seed at Melbourne Park, Nadal injured his left hip and lost to Mackenzie McDonald 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 in the second round, abruptly ending his bid for a record-extending 23rd Grand Slam trophy.

"It's a tough moment. It's a tough day," said Nadal, a 36-year-old Spaniard. "I can't say that I am not destroyed mentally at this moment, because I would be lying."

He pulled up awkwardly at the end of a point late in the second set against the 65th-ranked McDonald.

Nadal was visited by a trainer on the sideline, then left the court for a medical timeout. Up in the stands, his wife wiped away tears. Nadal returned to play, but was clearly compromised and not his usual indefatigable self, saying afterward that he could not hit his backhand properly and could not run much, either.

But Nadal added that, as the reigning champion of the tournament, he did not want

to leave the court via a mid-match retirement.

He said the hip had been bothering him for a couple of days, but it was never as bad as it became on Wednesday. Nadal was not sure exactly what the nature of the injury was, saying that he will have medical tests to determine if it has to do with a muscle, joint or cartilage.

"It's never over until it's over' type thing. He didn't even want to roll over and quit. He kept fighting until basically the end, even though he maybe didn't have all his game," said McDonald, a 27-year-old who won NCAA championships in singles and doubles for UCLA in 2016.

"I was in the locker room," McDonald said about the aftermath of the match, "and I was like, 'Hey, that's actually really big for me, because I haven't beaten someone of that caliber.'"

This is Nadal's earliest exit at any Grand Slam tournament since bowing out in the first round in Melbourne in 2016 against No. 45 Fernando Verdasco. That also made Verdasco the lowest-ranked player to defeat Nadal in Australia—until, of course, McDonald on Wednesday.

McDonald has never been past the fourth round at a major tournament. In his lone previous matchup against Nadal, at the 2020 French Open, McDonald won a total of just four games in a lopsided loss.



Rafael Nadal of Spain reacts during his second round loss to Mackenzie McDonald of the U.S. at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023.

"He kicked my butt," McDonald recalled Wednesday.

This result overshadowed everything else going on in Melbourne, of course, on a day that persistent rain pushed back the start of play on all but the three courts with retractable roofs until after 5 p.m. local time.

That meant some players—most notably, No. 1 Iga Swiatek, No. 3 Jessica Pegula and No. 6 Maria Sakkari—won matches that put them in the third round before more than a dozen others even had contested a single point in the first round.

At night, 2022 French Open runner-up Coco Gauff got

past 2021 U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu 6-3, 7-6 (4) in a second-round meeting between two of the sports young stars.

"I know a lot of people were looking forward to that matchup," said Gauff, an 18-year-old American. "I'm glad we got the prime spot. I hope we delivered."

Seeded men who won included No. 3 Stefanos Tsitsipas, No. 6 Felix Auger-Aliassime, No. 7 Daniil Medvedev—the runner-up to Nadal last year and to Novak Djokovic in 2021—No. 15 Jannik Sinner and No. 16 Frances Tiafoe.

"I told him, 'You're going to be in a position to win today.

You can win today,' Tiafoe said about fellow American McDonald. "Sort of seeing how he feels, I'm happy for Mackie. 'GOAT wins' don't come easy. Something to tell his grandkids one day, and you have to be happy for that guy."

A year ago, Nadal won the Australian Open for the second time to earn his 21st major championship, then raised his total to 22—the most for a man—at Roland Garros.

He is currently ranked No. 2 but was the top seed at Melbourne Park because No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz is sitting out the Australian Open with a bad leg.

Nadal's body has betrayed him quite a bit recently.

He needed pain-killing injections for his left foot on the way to winning the French Open last June, pulled out of Wimbledon last July before the semifinals because of a torn abdominal muscle and also dealt with a problem with rib cartilage in 2022.

Nadal's exit drains the tournament of yet more star power. In addition to his absence and Alcaraz's, 2022 Wimbledon runner-up Nick Kyrgios pulled out because his left knee needs arthroscopic surgery, four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka is off the tour while she is pregnant, two-time major champ Simona Halep is serving a provisional doping ban and Venus Williams is hurt.

That is all on top of this: The 2023 edition of the Australian Open is the first Grand Slam tournament since Serena Williams and Roger Federer announced their retirements.

Nadal arrived in Melbourne with an 0-2 record this season, making him 1-6 dating to September, when he lost to Tiafoe in the fourth round of the U.S. Open.

Even during a first-round victory Monday, a four-setter against a cramping Jack Draper, Nadal never quite seemed to be at his chase-every-ball, put-every-high-spin-shot-on-target best. He looked, somehow, his age.

The same was the case from the outset against McDonald.

"I'm really happy with how I started that match. I thought I was playing really well, serving great, returning well, too," McDonald said. "So I was really taking it to him."

That is true. From the get-go, McDonald was on, Nadal was off.

The very first game served as something of a harbinger: McDonald broke for a 1-0 lead thanks a trio of unforced errors by Nadal—two off his feared lefty forehand side.

Out of sorts, Nadal got into a back-and-forth with chair umpire Marijana Veljovic during breaks in action about whether she was starting the between-points serve clock too quickly for his liking.

Soon, McDonald was up a set. Then he went up a break right away in the second.

After one point in that set, Nadal showed real signs of trouble. He squatted behind the baseline and placed his racket down on the court. Then he went over and leaned on a sign, prompting Veljovic to ask whether Nadal was OK.

Nadal watched a couple of serves off McDonald's racket fly past him, then was checked on by the trainer. While the match would proceed, it essentially was over right then and there.

Titans hire 49ers' Ran Carthon as 14th general manager



NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The Tennessee Titans have hired San Francisco director of player personnel Ran Carthon as their general manager.

The Titans announced the hiring Wednesday morning, wrapping up a search that formally started Jan. 12. Carthon will be the franchise's first minority GM. He is tentatively scheduled to be introduced at a news conference Friday.

Controlling owner Amy Adams Strunk, who ran the search committee that interviewed seven candidates, said in a statement they are excited to add Carthon with his variety of experience as a player, scout and personnel executive.

"I was impressed with his natural leadership qualities and his ability to connect with people," Strunk said. "With talent evaluation being critical to this role, the roster they have built in San Francisco stands out. He played an important role there constructing one of our league's best teams."

Carthon will be the sixth minority among the past eight GMs hired in the NFL, which



San Francisco 49ers Director of Player Personnel Ran Carthon waits for the team's NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings in Santa Clara, Calif., Nov. 28, 2021.

has held two programs since late May to promote more minority candidates for front office jobs. Carthon, who will be 42 on Feb. 10, attended that first session last May.

Carthon joined San Francisco in 2017 along with coach Kyle Shanahan and general manager John Lynch. The

49ers since then have made three playoff appearances, winning two division titles and the 2019 NFC championship. The 49ers had seven Pro Bowl picks in 2021 and six this season.

The 49ers will host Dallas on Sunday night in the NFC divisional round after earning the No. 2 seed.

Carthon started as San Francisco's director of pro personnel before being promoted to his latest role in 2021. In that position, he evaluated top college prospects while also assessing pending free agents for the team's target list.

Carthon, who also interviewed last year for general

manager jobs with Chicago and the New York Giants, worked for the Rams between 2012 and 2016 as director of pro personnel. He started as a pro scout with Atlanta in 2008 through 2011.

He interviewed with the Titans last Friday. Strunk headed up the search committee to replace Jon Robinson who was fired Dec. 6 in his seventh season in the midst of the Titans' seven-game skid en route to a 7-10 finish.

Carthon played running back at Florida and was part of the Gators' 2000 Southeastern Conference Championship team. He spent three years in the NFL as an undrafted free agent starting with Indianapolis in 2004 and played in nine games with the Colts between 2005 and 2006.

Born in Osceola, Arkansas, Carthon earned his bachelor's degree in sociology at Florida after his playing career in 2008. He took part in the NFL Career Development Symposium at the Wharton School of Business in 2013 while with the Rams and again in 2018 with San Francisco.

His father, Maurice, played in the NFL and coached with seven teams.

Santos: We're going to make this best SBL season ever

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

You can now sing "Take me out to the ball game" and actually go to one this spring, as the Saipan Baseball League saw an interest from coaches and managers in bringing back baseball in March—with SBL president Jay Santos saying that they will make it the best season ever.

The meeting on Wednesday in the Northern Marianas Sports Association conference room at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium was attended by SBL board members and prospective managers and coaches from teams such as the Falcons, Natives, GSM, Bears, Cardinals, Mariners, Comets, Jr. Nationals, D'9ers, and Blue Jays.

With no finalized date yet for the start of the season in March and after he said that there will be no entrance fee this year for teams, Santos capped the teams off to 12.

After the meeting, Santos disclosed that the SBL is a recipient of the grant from the Building Optimism, Opportunities, and Stability Together, or BOOST program, and that is why this time around, there will be no entrance fees for teams.

As to what else the grant will be used for, Santos said that it will go toward operating costs,

salaries, and also to send the CNMI U18 National Baseball Team to World Baseball and Softball Confederation tournaments around Asia, after the cancellation of their tournament in New Zealand last December.

Santos said, "The money that we got is just great seed money. It's seed money that's not been available to SBL for a long, long time... It's going to be of great use and it's going to help us further develop the program."

"We're saving a large part of that money to be able to send them out because we feel

horrible that we weren't able to make New Zealand happen. But we're hopeful that these guys can go to Korea, Japan, or somewhere in Asia and play a baseball tournament there against their peers. I'm hoping to get an update from the other board member that's working on it. He's been tasked to find a tournament for the boys to play in because they've worked very hard," he said.

Despite much controversy with the BOOST program, Santos said "we're very thankful that we received it. And I assure the entire community that this board is going to make sure that that money is used right and it's going to be used to further develop baseball the best way that we can."

Santos then said he was surprised at the turnout for the



Saipan Baseball League held its managers and coaches meeting, headed by president Jay Santos, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium on Wednesday to discuss prospective team numbers in the 2023 SBL season in March.

LEIGH GASES

Avendano tops opening round of Ace of Aces

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Ruben Avendano topped the first round of the season-ending 2022 Fil-Taga Ace of Aces Tournament held last Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

The 63-year-old Pacific Home Appliances staff shot a net score of 69 in the opening round.

The 19-handicapper carded a gross score of 88 after going 43 in the first nine holes and 45 in the last nine.

Avendano said it was a rainy day at the golf course last Saturday.

"The weather was very windy and it drizzled 50% of

the time, but hole No. 11 was the worst as we had to stop due to the heavy rain."

He added that aside from that the course conditions were OK and it also helped that Lady Lucky played a part in him leading the opening round.

"Maybe I was just lucky as all my joints were working. There are times when my knee or back just don't want to cooperate anymore," he said half-jokingly.

Tied at second are Das Krishnan and Will Maui after both golfers finished with identical net scores of 77. Both 11-handicappers also mirrored each other in gross score with 88s with the former going 43-

45 with the latter recording a 41-47 in the front and back nines, respectively.

Fourth to fifth was also a tie between Henry Bautista and Ed Varias. The two fired twin 78s after compiling gross scores of 94 and 96, respectively.

The rest of the field, with their net scores in parenthesis, are as follows: Mike Cruz (net 79); Dan Ganacias (net 79); Freddie Cataluna (net 81); Ronnie Santos (net 81); Romy Cayetano (net 88), and Jess Yumul (net 99).

Monthly winners Hak Chon Bae, Lito Mendoza, and William Retardo were off-island and weren't able to take part in the first round of the 2022 Fil-Taga Ace of Aces Tournament.

meeting, as he expected about only four or seven teams to show up, "but to have 10 teams come out and sign up, we're excited and we're going to make this the best season possible to kick off men's baseball here in the CNMI—facilities wise, with food and beverage, and getting people out and enjoying the game. That's just our goal. And I'm thankful that all the people that are interested came out."

There will be a final meeting on Feb. 15 to discuss the game schedules, teams and roster, and the final rules and regulations of the season.



Avendano

one that is truly elite."

The SIS headmaster also agreed with Tan's assessment that she overexerted herself prior to the Mini Games and that contributed to her coming short of her goals.

"The sheer number of races in a brutal junior year, followed by two major competitions took its toll on her last summer but she never stopped giving it her all," he said.

TAN

From Page 28

weather again. My race started at 9:15pm which is super late for me because that's usually my bedtime, but I surprisingly felt good overall and am excited to see how I do the rest of the season! It's always an honor to represent the NMI wherever I am racing, even if I'm not wearing the NMI jersey."

Tan, however, conceded that a lot of things were working for her last weekend.

"Since it was an indoor track, the race conditions are always controlled so you know that there won't be any wind and it won't be too cold or too hot. However, it is on a 200m track instead of 400m so the turns are banked and tighter."

Tan said coming home for the holidays was a nice treat and made her ready for the

new college semester as well as the 2023 track season.

"The vacation was good on Saipan, it was nice to be back in the warm weather and be able to go swim at the beach everyday. It was also nice to compete in two races while I was home too to support the running community," she said alluding to Northern Marianas Athletics' Christmas Island Relay and Run Saipan '22 Mile Run.

At about the same time last

year and on the same venue, Tan ran the 3,000m record with a time of 10:57.58 in the Ramapo Season Opener.

Snyder, Tan's Mini Games and Oceania Athletics Championship coach, said the CNMI athletics community is mighty proud again of her latest accomplishment.

"Tania continues to amaze us all at NMA and SIS. Last year Tania ran three seasons at

Fordham and then went on to the Oceania Athletics Championships and the Pacific Mini Games. I am so very proud of her and offer my deepest-felt congratulations... This recent accomplishment is proof that Tania has what it takes to be our No. 1 female runner. Congratulations also to her coach and the team at Fordham for taking an already excellent athlete and honing her into

Public School System and athletic director Nick Gross for their continued commitment to the program and TakeCare for their sponsorship of our entire competition, including last year's middle school division," said NMBA president Merlie Tolentino.

"We wish all the teams good luck as they compete for the second season of the Interscholastic Badminton League. TakeCare Insurance remains committed to initiatives, such as sports competitions, that advocate for keeping our community active and healthy, and we are happy to see more of our youth taking part in the interscholastic program," TakeCare Insurance administrative assistant/sales coordinator Leilani Pangelinan said. (PR)

2022

From Page 28

than 40 players since its inception back in August 2020 by Krum and his wife, Donna, with the group first known as Paradise Pickleball Club of Saipan, their biggest highlight of 2022 was winning the Inaugural Marianas Cup against Guam last November.

"My big highlight for 2022 was the Marianas Cup where Saipan won 11 out of 12 events against Guam. We are in possession of the Marianas Cup for the year!" he said.

The PFNMI team defeated Pickleball Guam Association, 11-1, after 12 matches in a best-two-out-of-three format, with NMI winning 23 games

out of 29 games played.

As for what lies ahead in 2023, Krum said that they plan to do more outreach in schools and other venues. He said "the library is interested in a pickleball court, along with Isla Montessori School and others."

PFNMI successfully introduced pickleball to Hopwood Middle School with the help of PE teacher and pickleball player Chang Whan Jang last November.

Along with that, PFNMI is planning to host four events—one per quarter, with the first event being a three day training on March 8, 9, and 10 with Daniel Moore who is a trainer, coach, and recipient of gold medals in pickleball over the years.

Krum said their next tournament is in April but the format of play is still undecided. "We do not have a sports calendar for the year, yet, but the board will form an events committee that will arrange dates and times for the year." And that "the board's major project is the development of a dedicated pickleball facility on the island."

"The year 2023 will be a fun year for us as we watch the membership grow and continue to develop the sport on Saipan," said Krum.

For those who don't know what pickleball is, it is a cross between tennis, ping-pong, and badminton. You can watch to learn more or join their daily night games at the AMP.

HIGH

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play in a round-robin regular season and the Top 2 in each bracket will advance to the playoffs.

Meanwhile, other teams playing in the first set of matches include Tinian vs MHS 2 on Court 2; Agape 1 vs Saipan Southern 2 on Court 3; Saipan Southern 1 vs GCA on Court 4; and Agape 2 vs MHS 1 on Court 5.

For the second and final set of matches this weekend, beginning at 10:15am, MHS 1 will take on Saipan Southern 1 on Court 1; GCA vs SIS 2 on Court 2; Tinian vs Agape 1 on Court 3; MHS 2 vs Kagman on Court 4; and SIS 1 vs Saipan Southern 2 on Court 5.

Preliminary games in the high school division will continue on Jan. 27 and 28, while the competition will be on break for a couple of weeks, as NMBA will have players participating in an off-island tournament. Action in the IBL will resume on Feb. 25, while the playoff round is slated for March 4 and 11.

"We welcome back our high school students for the second season of the Public School System/TakeCare Badminton Interscholastic League. After our successful inaugural season, we are pleased to announce that we have more teams this year. Thanks to the coaches and the support of their respective schools and officials. We would also like to thank the leadership of the CNMI Pub-



**Bam Adebayo
scores 26 points,
Heat beat Pelicans,
124-98
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**Santos: We're going
to make this best
SBL season ever**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tan looks forward to Pacific, Micro games



EMMY LONGMORE
Tania Tan shows off the CNMI flag on her cellphone after breaking her own CNMI record in the 3,000m run during the TCNJ Indoor Invitational at the Armory track in New York City last Jan. 14.

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tania Tan is back to her record-setting ways after breaking her own 3,000m record in the TCNJ Indoor Invitational at the Armory track in New York City last Jan. 14.

"I'm dedicating this race to everyone back home in the NMI," she said.

In a way, the 21-year-old Fordham University senior running the 3-kilometer event in a new CNMI national record of 10:34.63 signals her readiness to represent the Commonwealth anew in this year's Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands and Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands.

This comes after the Saipan International School alumnae failed to medal in the athletics event of last year's Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

Leading up the quadrennial event, many picked Tan as the CNMI's best hope in medaling in the sport.

"Looking back at it now, I feel like I was burnt out from my cross country and indoor/outdoor track and field season during the school year. I didn't take a break because I knew I had to train for the

Oceania Athletics Championships and Pacific Mini Games. But that ended up leading to me burning out before the competitions. I was exhausted physically but also mentally," Tan told *Saipan Tribune* when asked about her Mini Games stint.

As for the 2023 Micronesian Games and 2023 Pacific Games, Tan said she can't wait to wear the CNMI colors once

again and do her best for the islands and its people

"I'm looking forward to competing and representing the NMI at the Micro Games and Pacific Games, no matter what the result is. It's always an honor to represent our islands and I am so grateful to be given these opportunities to compete at high-level competitions like this."

Going back to her resetting the CNMI standards in the 3,000m, Tan said she didn't expect it at all.

"I'm very surprised I broke the record because it's our season opener (first meet of the season) and I didn't expect to run that fast. I also just got back to New York from Saipan a couple days before the race so my body was still getting used to the time zone and cold

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High school badminton season kicks off



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

High School students practice at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium yesterday in preparation for the Public School System/TakeCare Badminton Interscholastic League 2022-2023, which will kick off this Saturday.

Saipan International School will start its title defense in the Public School System/TakeCare Badminton Interscholastic League against Kagman High School, as the 2022-2023 season of the Northern Marianas Badminton Association-sanctioned competition kicks off tomorrow, Jan. 21, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Geckos-Ayuyus tiff is scheduled on Court 1, starting at 8:30am. The opposing teams will play the boys doubles first, while the remaining events (in order) are singles and boys singles, girls doubles, and mixed

doubles. SIS won the inaugural season after stunning the No. 1 seed Marianas High School in the finals, 3-2. The Geckos prevailed in the girls doubles, girls singles, and mixed doubles.

Five other schools are competing this season with some having two teams. SIS 1 is on Bracket 1 with Kagman, Tinian High School, Agape Christian School 1, Saipan Southern High School 2, and MHS 2. MHS 1 will join Saipan Southern 1, Agape 2, Grace Christian Academy, and SIS 2 on Bracket 2. Teams in each bracket will

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'2022 was the real deal for pickleball'



LEIGH GASES

Team NMI players Marivic Dunlop, back right, and Mimi Zhang, back left, go up against Pickleball Guam Association players during the Inaugural Marianas Cup Pickleball Tournament last November at the American Memorial Park courts, in which team NMI won.

By **LEIGH GASES**
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REPORTER

Starting off as just a parking lot past-time, the new, yet ev-

er-growing sport of pickleball has exploded in popularity and became the real deal in 2022 after joining the Northern Marianas Sports Association and moving the main play to the pickleball striped American Memorial Park tennis courts.

With that, Pickleball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands president Dr. Nelson Krum said that "2022 was a fun year for us!"

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After being recognized by NMSA, it was only up from there for the then-fledgling group, as soon after, AMP court No. 4 was permanently striped for pickleball—which made gameplay more accessible and consistent for players.

PFNMI held an inaugural event last July to break in the new courts which included a crazy eights game and potluck barbecue.

"We now have four semi-permanent nets for those courts at AMP. So, we have courts with a nice surface, good nets, and great lights!" said Krum about the location.

Growing rapidly in number of players to over 150 from less